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**REGIONAL SECRETARY - Craig Anderson
REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON - Michelle Reid-Hay**

17th April 2023

Dear Convenor and Clerk

I write to you in relation to the current and ongoing dispute between our Union, the CWU, and Royal Mail, which we hope will be resolved soon. A dispute, which to be clear, has emerged because of the mismanagement of Royal Mail who have went from a huge profit last year to loss making this year.

These losses all fall at the door of Royal Mail mismanagement. The dispute had at its heart our concerns that Royal Mail were motivated by an asset-stripping business plan. We also have very serious concerns that Royal Mail could be negatively transformed into just one of many gig employers. One that cuts jobs and detrimentally impacts job security, recruits self-employed drivers and new entrants on significantly inferior pay, terms and conditions, rather than retaining loyal and hardworking Royal Mail employees, in secure employment, who want to stay in their jobs.

Not only are we worried about postal workers' jobs, we also have grave concerns around their approach to the Universal Service Obligation (USO), which if taken away would have a huge impact on customer service and affordability of postal services. We know that many customers and businesses in Scotland, particularly in rural communities, rely heavily on the USO and that protecting the USO is very much in the interests of the Scottish people, especially in rural areas across the country.

All of these issues and more were subject to investigation by the BEIS Committee at Westminster. The Select Committee held the management of Royal Mail to account for the decisions they have taken and the strategy they have deployed.

Given the BEIS Committee at Westminster has held Royal Mail to account, we also believe that the Scottish Parliament should do likewise. The actions of Royal Mail have had a huge impact on thousands of workers up here and will, if they get their way, and there is a real concern about the future of postal services in Scotland.

The CWU is asking your committee therefore to hold a short investigation into Postal Services in Scotland and how the recent actions and approach of Royal Mail could impact the future sustainability of postal services in Scotland. We believe that your investigation

could take evidence from Royal Mail, the CWU and any other stakeholder that you think should be involved.

We also believe that as a committee focused on the economy and fair work, that the issues around this dispute, and the future of postal services, straddle both your economic and fair work remit and that therefore this is an obvious subject matter for your committee to be considering.

We also strongly believe that as a matter of course your committee takes a proactive approach in industrial disputes which impact the wider economy and/or are relevant to the concept of fair work.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely

C Anderson

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