



The Chronicle



Issue 8

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SOUTHERN DRIVERS
COMPANY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER.

Swine Flu (H1N1 Virus).

We have been involved in a discussions with Southern about the outbreak of the H1N1 virus and in particular, with regards to the provision of a doctors certificate or note should a driver be diagnosed with swine flu. Patients have been asked not visit their GP's surgeries and to phone the national helpline, where, they will be advised if they are suffering from the virus. This obviously makes it difficult for members to obtain a certificate. Southern have agreed that any driver who is diagnosed with swine flu via the helpline will not need to submit a doctors certificate or sick note provided they can supply the individual reference number (which is given out by the NHS operator) or a copy of their personal prescription of Tamiflu.

Depots and PNB points have now seen the provision of anti bacterial hand gel. We raised our concern that there have been occasions where some locations have not had the supply soap and hand towels replenished. Southern requested drivers to report to their PM's any hand washing facility missing and the location.

Any staff who is a primary carer for a family member and needs time off care for their family member diagnosed with swine flu will be granted time off in line with the current company policy. It should be noted that time off will be unpaid.

E-Mailing Rosters.

It has been brought to our attention a letter is being circulated to drivers in the Redhill area offering volunteers to receive their roster and daily alteration sheet via their personal e-mail address.

We are extremely concerned with this course of action and would advise members to treat this with caution and desist from taking part. If members take part in this, it could eventually form part of their contract of employment as an implied term.

As much as it may seem beneficial to members, the letter states it does not remove the responsibility of drivers to ascertain their next turn of duty in line with their existing terms and conditions, which leads us to wonder who will really be of benefit?

There is a clear structure for any proposed alterations to our T&C's, which involves the Company Council, ASLEF District Organiser, Executive Committee and the members in the form of a referendum.

On a final point, should a driver take part in this scheme and fail to find out their next turn of duty, they may be liable to discipline. Management could use the fact that by signing the agreement to receive e-mailed rosters, drivers will be accepting the responsibility to ensure they have received them.

Air conditioning Class 377 units.

There is a rumour circulating that Southern intend to remove the facility on MITRAC for switching off the cab fan. We have asked this question and have been advised this is not the case. There are no modifications or Proposed from Engineering to remove the cab fan on off facility in MITRAC.

2009 pay award.

As part of the 2007 pay deal, drivers will receive either 3.3% or RPI plus 0.25%, whichever is the greater for 2009. Our pay anniversary date is the first Sunday in October.

Mobile phones.

Drivers will soon be asked to hand their mobile phones over to their Driver Managers. All phones will be unlocked allowing drivers to call using the internal 761 facility. The reason for passing the phone to DM's is the phone needs a Password to modify the dialling facility. Once completed, drivers will receive their phone back from their DM.

Pollen filters.

Following a question from a branch on whether class 377 units air conditioning are fitted with pollen filters, we raised this matter with the Operations Director, who advised us that 377 units are fitted with standard filters only. However, he is in possession of a report which states the filters on 377 units are of a higher standard than filters used on road vehicles.

Does this concur with your experience?

Union learning Representatives.

A special edition Chronicle will shortly be available for members on the role of ULR's and passport to learning.

Purley PNB point.

The building work on the room will shortly be completed. Once the work is finalised, the room will be inspected by the Caterham H&S Representative before opened for PNB use.

We would like to thank members for their Patience while the work was taking place.

News in brief.

Driver Managers will shortly start the process of transferring drivers from the SMS procedure to the SASS procedure.

Some of you may be aware Southern have announced James Burt will be the Service Delivery Director from 20th September. Other positions within the former operations field are still to be decided. We will advise further as soon as we are made aware.

Southern are aware drivers are facing difficulty in replacing their uniform. An order for replacements uniforms was made some time ago. It is hoped all drivers who made a uniform request will receive it during October.

we would like to place on record our thanks to the Branches who supported us during the recent election.

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