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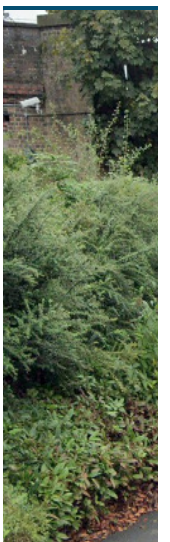
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Read about in cab cameras

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Read about the change to certain roads in Wales from 30mph to 20mph, which took effect from 27th September

15 - 16

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### End of an Era

As you have been previously made aware in this column, this will be the last edition of 'Wheels' that will be forwarded to you via your home's letterbox. From 2024, 'Wheels' will become an 'online only' offering, accessed through your Union's website. With this therefore possibly becoming a sought after 'final hardcopy edition' of a journal that has been around for many decades, I believe it is fitting that this edition carry a message from your General Secretary that will stand the test of time and remind us all of our *raison d'être*.

For too many years now workers around the world have been confronted with neo liberalism, inspired by extreme capitalism and the corporate greed of the few, on the back of the many. The 'globalisation' of our transport, logistics and warehousing industry has given it a crucial role in the economic process. If we were all organised in Trade Unions then we would have immense power, a power that could cause the whole supply chain to collapse if we so wanted. Unfortunately, however, we are not all organised. Why? I would suggest that there are a number of reasons. I highlight below three of what I see as the main ones.

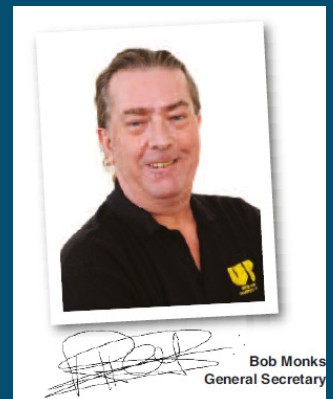
There is a growing influence of far right politics. Far right parties have become more and more influential. Whereas the far right was marginal during the second half of the 20th Century, the extreme right wing and fascist parties are now back. With their fake narrative about protectionism, they actually aim to break down workers rights, which include their human rights. In a number of countries, the far right has become part of government, Trump in the USA, Brazil with its recent Bolsonarism, Giorgia Meloni in Italy together with Victor Orban in Hungary. In addition, very recently in both Argentina and the Netherlands.

Democracy is under pressure around the globe. Authoritarian leaders in Asia, Africa and the Middle East have turned their backs on democracy. Rights to organise, opt for industrial action, demonstrate and the right to bargain are all in danger. Women's rights are flagrantly attacked in many countries, such as Iran and Afghanistan.

Human Rights are being challenged. Trade Unionists are intimidated and sometimes even imprisoned. The 'International Trade Union Confederation' ('ITUC') recently published its 'Global Rights Index', which shed light on deteriorating practices of both governments and industry. Nearly 150 countries were monitored and evaluated in terms of whether they respect trade union rights. Staggeringly 90% of these countries violated the right to strike while 80% violated the right to collective bargaining, with trade unionists being killed in eight countries. The number of countries where authorities prevented trade union registration increased from 59% in 2019 to 73% in 2023. Workers have been exposed to violence in 44 countries so far during 2023 and the number of countries where workers were arrested and detained increased from 25% in 2014 to 46% in 2023. The right to strike, organise trade union action and freedom of association are I would say, basic human rights.

The reasons highlighted above, I believe, cause individuals to question what purpose is left in becoming a trades unionist? If the sanctity of our world is to be preserved, then individuals need to protect themselves by joining a trade union and, in doing so, send out a loud and clear message of solidarity to stand up against neo-liberalism that our world has created.

Until next time.... Drive safely.



# Driving safely under the red X symbol

## Rule 258 - Red flashing light

- Red flashing lights signals and a red 'X' on a sign identify a closed lane in which people, stopped vehicles or other hazards are present you.
- YOU MUST follow the instructions on signs in advance of a closed lane to move safely to an open lane
- YOU MUST NOT drive in a closed lane. A sign will inform you when the lane is no longer closed by displaying a speed limit or the word 'END'.

Remember, it's illegal and dangerous to drive in a Red X lane. If you're caught, you could receive a fixed penalty of up to £100 and three points, and in some cases more severe penalties or a court appearance.

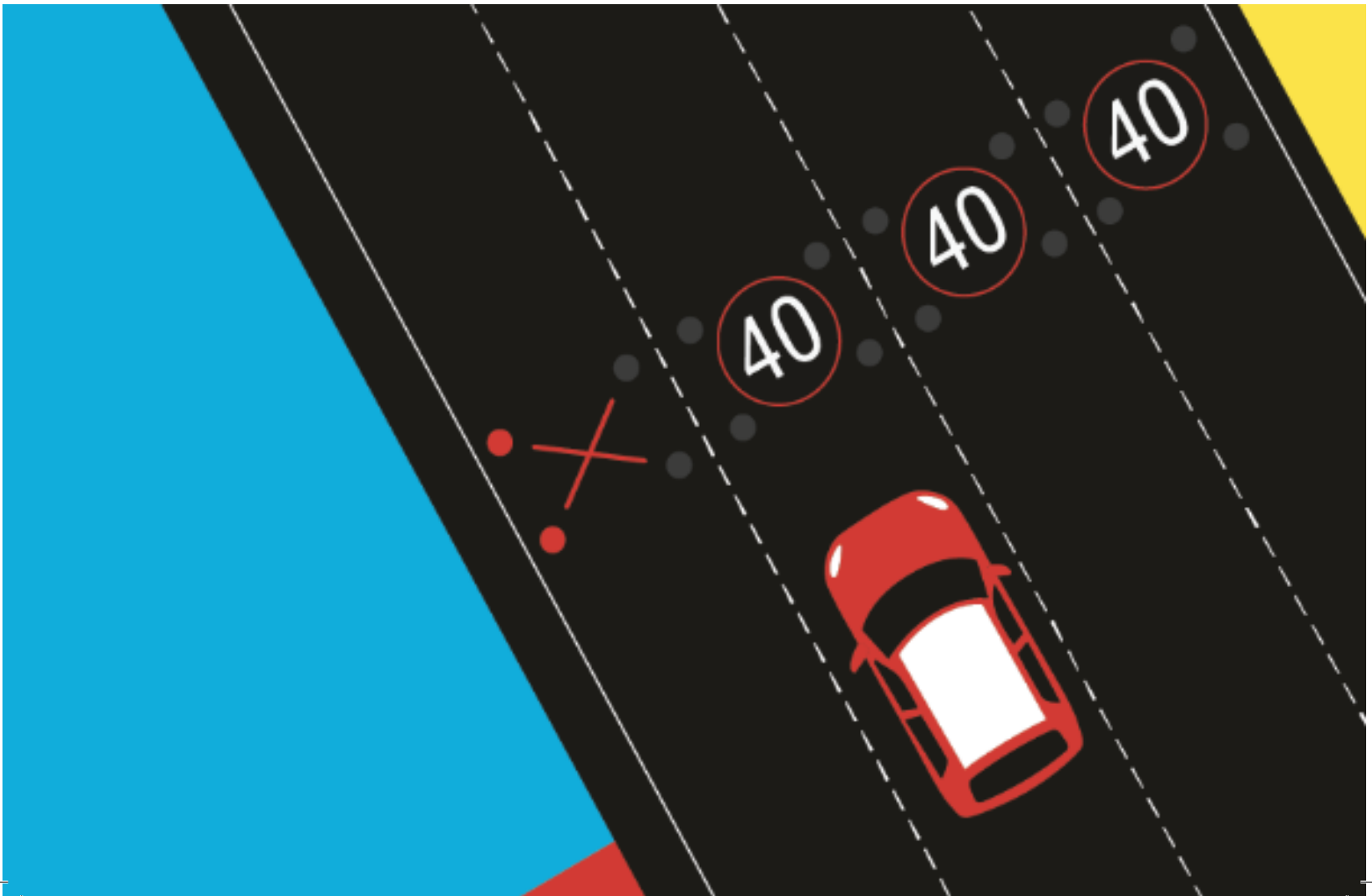
More information can be found in the Highway Code (rule 258) and The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

## Rule 258 - signals and signs indicating lane closures

Be aware that:

- there could be hazards, emergency services or traffic authorised to use the closed lane to reach people in need.
- where the left lane is closed at an exit slip road, this means that the exit cannot be used.
- Where red flashing light signals and closure of all lanes are shown on a sign, the road is closed. You **MUST NOT** go beyond the sign in any lane or use the hard shoulder to avoid the road closure unless directed to do so by a police or traffic officer.

for full details visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/motorways-253-to-273#rule258>



# Bridge Strikes – Could HGV Levy Investment Help?

**Posted By Joe Scotting**  
**03 August 2023**  
**Road Haulage Association**

As the HGV Levy returns after a three-year suspension hauliers can be forgiven for asking what happens to their contributions.

Hauliers operating HGVs of 12 tonnes or more driving on motorways or A roads must pay the levy; they can be charged up to £749 per vehicle.

Our Haulage Cost Movement Report revealed that the cost of running trucks increased by nearly 20 percent last year as fuel and energy prices soared.

Firms reeling from those hikes will say this as a bad time to reintroduce what many see as a stealth tax.

Operators seeing their contributions seemingly disappear into a Treasury black hole will want to know where it's being invested.

So what could the HGV Levy be used for? Some of our members want to see improved signage near low bridges to help prevent HGVs hitting them. Lorry drivers regularly complain of obscured, poorly sited, and badly maintained signs.

This puts truckers and others at risk and racks up costly delays in repairing road and rail infrastructure.

We should be clear this is about prevention not shifting responsibilities away from drivers and operators. If we can do more to reduce risk then we should do.

Improving signage can reduce 'bridge strikes', and Network Rail which maintains rail bridges

would no doubt welcome this kind of commitment from government. They say that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 there were 1,833 bridge strikes reported, though it's not clear how many of those incidents involved HGVs. One bridge in Cambridgeshire was reportedly struck 33 times in that period.

Levy funds could be put towards road improvements.

Poorly maintained roads are a blight to all of us. They lead to collisions and damaged vehicles, and cause unnecessary delays which increase emissions and journey costs. Why not use Levy funds to improve road surfaces which would benefit everybody?

Better road infrastructure is a priority for us. Hauliers are key economic enablers and are now contributing even more again through the Levy.

We have to accept it's back but firms will want to see where their contributions are going.

We urge ministers to pledge Levy money for much-needed infrastructure programmes. It would go some way to reassuring operators and makes wider economic sense.

<https://www.rha.uk.net/Media/News-Blogs-and-Press-Releases/Blogs/Detail/articleid/1559>

Data protection matters

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# Update to Highway Code Annex 4. The road user and the law.

As of 17 September 2023, Annex 4 of the Highway code has been amended.

A new section titled 'The road user and the law' – added Restricted Roads (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2022 to the list of legislation.

Within Wales, when driving on restricted roads, the new speed limited will be 20 miles per hour. For full details visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>



WHEELS

# National Lorry Week 23 – 29 October

To celebrate National Lorry Week (23 – 29 October 2023) Peter McKeivitt, Regional Officer for Region One of our Union, visited 'Lymm Truck Wash', the largest Truck Wash in Europe, to chat with drivers and give out some 'goodies'.

National Lorry Week 2023 celebrates the vibrant road transport industry. This year's event explores the future of road transport, showcasing how our industry is constantly evolving with cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices. For full information about the week visit <https://www.nationallorryweek.co.uk/>



National Lorry Week

LOVE THE LORRY

[www.lovetheorry.co.uk](http://www.lovetheorry.co.uk)





# TUC Congress 2023 - Liverpool

The annual TUC Congress took place over three days in Liverpool during September.

Pete McKeivitt and Kev Ashby were our Union's two delegates, supported by Bob Monks, General Secretary, Brian Hart, National Officer, and Eric Drinkwater, President.

As ever, it was the personal stories of the delegates in support of and in illustration of their struggles and their successes that were the most memorable aspects of the Congress.

In addition, Angela Rayner, Deputy leader of the Labour Party, gave a speech pledging a commitment to honour the content

of 'Labour's New Deal for Working People' and to implement its content within 100 days of taking office.

There is always a possibility for interested members to attend a future Congress as a guest. If you're interested, speak with your Regional Officer.

Further good news is that our President won a bottle of bubbly in a raffle – the bad news is that he failed to share it with his comrades...



Eric Drinkwater, President, at the TUC Congress 2023, supporting the 'Working Class Movement Library'.



Brian Hart at the TUC Congress 2023, accepting the prize on behalf of our President

# In Cab Cameras

## DRIVER FACING CAMERAS – THE WAY TO RESIST

This is not an article that will be discussing the pros and cons of driver facing cameras: this is an article about how to resist them.

As Regional Officers we are being confronted with an increasing number of members who are being told by their employers that driver facing cameras are to be installed in their existing fleet or are to be a fixture of their new fleet.

The process for opposing this, as it is for all changes to conditions of work, is to engage the grievance process. In this instance, as this would be an issue which is likely to be a concern for a number of drivers, the process would be a 'formal collective grievance'.

Where there is a recognition agreement in place this can be undertaken by the Shop Steward. The difficulty arises where there is no representative on site as organising and coordinating the action is more of a challenge. If this is the case, please speak with your Regional Officer to discuss how a site can obtain URTU recognition.

To begin, those who are participating in the grievance would take it to their Line Manager and, if they are content with the response that they receive then that will be the end of the process. However, as is more likely there are still concerns, then it will be necessary to submit the matter to the level of management above the Line Manager, in writing, under the heading 'Formal

Written Grievance'.

This would begin: 'We the undersigned' and go on to explain the issue and state clearly how you would like it resolved. The names of the individuals signing up to the grievance can then be added at the end.

The matter is then discussed at a meeting where the potential for an agreement exists. However, if as a group there are still concerns, the outcome must be appealed to the next level of management with whom a further meeting and discussion of the concerns of the drivers can be



pursued.

Throughout the regions we have had varying degrees of success in opposing driver facing cameras, ranging from, in the first instance, an agreement not to install the cameras where a company pays heed to the anxieties of the drivers and considers the potential threat in terms of retention and on-going resentment, through to input on the policies relating to their use.

If this is an issue in your workplace then please call your Regional Officer at the first opportunity to obtain support.



# New Union Contribution Rates for 2024

For members paying their contributions through their Bank or Building Society, this increase will take effect for all payments due after 01 January 2024.

Where contributions are deducted from payroll your employer should have received notification, but would you please ensure that they are aware of the new rates.

This decision to increase membership contribution rates was sanctioned by URTU's National Executive Committee. The Union continually monitors its cost base to ensure that any increase is kept to an absolute minimum.

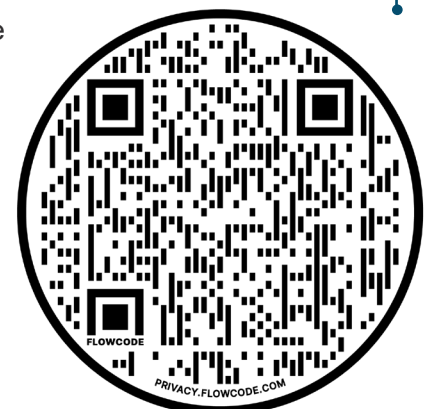
	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	1/2 Yearly	Yearly
Driver	£4.65	£20.11	£60.39	£120.81	£241.64
Non-Driver	£3.80	£16.50	£49.56	£99.17	£198.37
Part Time	£2.05	£9.00	£27.00	£54.02	£108.04

## Don't Miss Out!

To make sure you are kept up to date with Union news and events, please ensure that your Union has your current e-mail address. To check this you can either log in to the member's area of the website which you can access at either [www.urtu.com](http://www.urtu.com) or by scanning the below QR code.

Alternatively you could contact your Union's Head Office on freephone 0800 526 639.

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# K

## Keep your details up to date.

It can easily slip your mind if your details or circumstances change, or you might think that your employer or your Union Reps will let us know. To ensure your membership is kept up to date with your personal details and union contributions it is best to contact us.

All it takes is just a quick call to the Union Head Office on freephone 0800 526 639 or drop us an e-mail at [admin@urtu.com](mailto:admin@urtu.com).

Things to let us know about, might include, moving house, changing e-mail address, changing mobile number, change in employer, changing working hours, absences from work, potential missed payments, and bank details. We are always here to help!



## So far this year.....

We have helped

246 Sick benefits paid

52 Benevolent Fund grants paid

15 Grieving families helped

288 people helped by the Legal Helpline

98 Personal Injury cases passed to the Union's solicitors

17 Personal Injury settlements completed totalling £4,446,318

Thousands of calls taken and thousands of members helped. Thank you for supporting our Union. Together we stand.



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*It's never too late to build your financial resilience and prepare for challenging times ahead. We understand that saving might be difficult right now but even setting aside a small amount regularly can help prepare you for difficult times. Our specific Christmas Savings Accounts start up every January, in addition to our regular savings accounts.*

**Not yet a member? Don't worry – it's easy to join - you can even apply for a loan and join at the at the same time. It's free to join and easy to do.**

**More information can be found on our website – [www.partnerscreditunion.co.uk](http://www.partnerscreditunion.co.uk) – further contact details overleaf along with opening hours.**

## **SO DON'T DELAY, JOIN TODAY!**



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**What is a Credit Union?**

Credit unions are not-for-profit savings and loans co-operatives owned and run by their members for their members. They offer savings, great value loans and insurance products, plus they are local and ethical and exist solely to benefit their members.

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Short answer is yes! Apart from being strictly regulated by the Financial Conduct and Prudential Regulation Authorities, credit unions are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) who will make sure you get your money back, automatically compensating you up to £85,000 per eligible person, in the unlikely event that the credit union fails.

**Who can join Partners?**

We have a unique agreement with URTU, offering membership of Partners to their members and their husbands, wives or partners living in the same household. We also have childrens accounts which you can open for your kids, grandkids, nephews and nieces.

**Saving with Partners**

By saving up a nest egg you'll feel confident that you can handle what life throws at you. Save as much or as little as you want in our regular savings accounts or specific Christmas Club accounts. We even do accounts for children!

**Loans from Partners**

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**How do I make payments?**

You can pay into your PCU account regularly by Standing Order, straight from your wages if your employer is one of our Payroll Partners (*'What you don't get you don't miss'* and it soon mounts up – it's so easy), or by having your benefits paid direct into your account with us. You can also make debit card payments online via our website and you can also opt to purchase a Paypoint card, so you can pay additional funds in cash via local shops, post offices etc. Please note we DO NOT accept cash payments at the office or pay funds out in cash. *If you'd like us to approach your employer re Payroll Deduction, let us know!*

**Dividends/Interest on Savings**

As a credit union, we don't have a single owner or shareholders. Instead, we are owned by our members. This means if and when the credit union makes a profit/surplus, it may collectively, via an Annual General Meeting, and based on a proposal by the Board of Directors, decide to pay all or some of that profit back to members as a 'thank you' for saving with the credit union. This is called a dividend. We may also offer interest bearing Cash ISAs from time to time.

**Free Insurance**

Our members' savings (excluding ISA's) and loans are insured at no cost to them, so in the event of your death, your loan is repaid and an extra 50% on top of your savings balance is paid out. *Terms & Conditions do apply so please check.*

**Other**

- Mobile App – balances, instant withdrawals, loan applications
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**We are open Mon-Fri from 9.15 am – 4.15 pm (calls & emails)**  
**Office is open Mondays and Fridays only for face to face visits, by appointment only**

# 20mph speed limit introduced in Wales.

Following a law passed by the Welsh Government, from 17th September 2023 the speed limit on restricted roads in Wales has reduced from 30mph to 20mph.

Here are some frequently asked questions regarding these changes taken from the Welsh Government website (<https://www.gov.wales/introducing-20mph-speed-limits-frequently-asked-questions#74843>)

## Why did you introduce a 20mph speed limit on residential roads and busy pedestrian streets across Wales?

The evidence from around the world is very clear – decreasing speeds will reduce collisions, save lives and reduce injuries – helping to improve quality of life and make our streets and local communities safer for all.

A public health study estimated that the 20mph default speed limit in Wales could result – every year - in:

- 40% fewer collisions
- 6 to 10 lives saved
- 1,200 to 2,000 people avoiding injury

## Have all 30mph roads changed to 20mph?

This is not a blanket change. These changes will affect most 30mph roads, but not all.

The law changes the default speed limited on restricted roads. These are usually residential or busy pedestrian streets with streetlights.

## How much is this change costing?

The introduction of the 20mph speed limit costs £32 million.

This cost is outweighed by the casualty prevention savings, including the reduced impact on NHS and emergency services. One study estimates these savings could be up to £92m every year.

## Will the 20mph speed limit be enforced?

The Police and GoSafe will enforce 20mph, like any other speed limit, to make our roads safer for all users. They will also be engaging with motorists to ensure that the new speed limits are respected.

~

27/10/2023 from RHA  
Author: Joe Scotting  
<https://www.rha.uk.net/>

RHA colleagues emphasised to the MP that current approaches to speed limits are too heavy handed and disproportionate for firms.

Simon Britton, Transport Manager for the host firm Alan R Jones said the company are incurring late fees due to missing service times because of 20 mph speed limits. He said 200 roads in Swansea had been affected by the reduced limit.

Whilst local authorities can increase the limit on some roads, the guidance to local authorities is complex and makes this difficult for councils to do.

This week the RHA have been celebrating National Lorry Week 2023, showcasing how



our industry is constantly evolving with cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices.

You could be a valued member, industry operator, or simply interested in exploring a rewarding career in the sector – there are opportunities for everyone to get involved.

(<https://www.rha.uk.net/news/news-blogs-and-press-releases/news-updates/detail/rha-tell-shadow-welsh-minister-welsh-roads-need-vital-improvements>)

As this is a recent change and long term monitoring is still being carried out to gauge the effect of this, we would like to hear about your experiences transferring through Wales and how these new speed limits have affected your journey.



# GDPR Recap for Union Reps.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION ('GDPR') – a recap in 2023, 'five years on'.

More than five years have passed since 'GDPR' arrived amidst considerable publicity on 25 May 2018. It was heralded as a 'once in a generation' transition, a long overdue change to the way individuals and organisations processed personal data.

GDPR's arrival was also accompanied by warnings of how firmly the 'Information Commissioner's Office' ('ICO') would police the new legislation. Individuals and organisations would face serious sanction for breaching GDPR. Many organisations were faced with the challenge of training staff and preparing for the new regulations, whilst at the same time making the required changes to their systems and processes.

Since GDPR arrived five years ago much has happened – 'Covid-19'; 'Brexit'; the conflict in Ukraine, and more recently the situation in Israel and Gaza. In addition, high inflation and the 'cost of living crisis' have added to the pressures faced by working people throughout the UK. In such circumstances, it might be tempting to 'forget' or trivialise GDPR. That would be most unwise. The 'ICO' has strong powers. It has pursued many high-profile cases, resulting in huge fines for those found guilty of breaching GDPR. The internet and news reports frequently provide examples to warrant our attention.

It is an opportune time therefore to re-visit the guidance given in 'Wheels Magazine' during 2018, for the benefit of Members and Union Reps. Most of it is still relevant and is therefore reproduced in full. The guidance is

a reminder of the principles that should guide us when handling individuals' personal data.

Adherence to GDPR is important for our Union, for several reasons:

- URTU is a 'large scale processor of personal data'. That definition carries 'weight' and 'responsibility'.
- Running a membership system with thousands of members is our Union's main activity. Breaching personal data when carrying out 'what you are supposed to do as a Trades Union' might receive little sympathy from the ICO.
- Everyone who has duties acting 'for and on behalf of' the Union needs to be vigilant. Data Protection is no longer a back-office task. It affects everyone – employees, reps and any external parties with which we interact. We are all potentially 'Processors' of personal data.
- Any Trades Union is automatically deemed to be a 'higher risk' under the principles of GDPR. A Trades Union might also attract negative 'attention', simply because some people and organisations dislike Trades Unions.
- There are no exemptions or exceptions. We are judged by higher standards because of what we do on a day to day basis.

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<p><b>We are here to support you.</b></p> <p>We are here to help, advise and support with any issues, problems or concerns you may have with your employment.</p>	<p><b>Your membership.</b></p> <p>Your employer does not need to know if you are in a union. If you move jobs you can take your membership with you.</p>
<p><b>We are not politically affiliated.</b></p> <p>United Road Transport Union is not affiliated to any political party.</p>	<p><b>Pay Terms and Conditions.</b></p> <p>If we don't negotiate on your behalf for better working conditions, who will?</p>
<p><b>Benefits.</b></p> <p>We have a wide range of benefits available to you, many of which can extend to your family and friends.</p>	<p><b>Value for Money.</b></p> <p>Legal Support    Hardship grants Personal Injury    Peace of Mind &amp; More</p> <p>All for the price of a cup of coffee!</p>

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# Keeping the Welsh language alive at Warburtons Port Talbot

Drivers at Warburtons in Port Talbot have been fitting learning Welsh into their busy lives.

David Piles has been learning Welsh using Duolingo (www.duolingo.com).

David said:

"I knew very little Welsh before I started learning. On a scale from 1-10, I would say my level of Welsh is currently about 5. I did Welsh at school, but I did not take it any further than what was required, and I could not remember most of what I had learned anyway.

I am now learning Welsh using the Duolingo phone app. I have a son now and I would like him to learn Welsh. I want to learn Welsh so that I can help him with Welsh in the future. Another reason for learning is because Welsh is our language and I wish I had stuck with it during my school years.

I found out about the Duolingo app during a union visit to my workplace. Several different learning opportunities were brought up and Welsh interested me. I was shown the Duolingo app, and I have gone on from there.

It is not that difficult to fit learning into my day-to-day life. With my driver job, I regularly take 30-45 minute breaks a day, and instead of just scrolling through social media, I use the time to get a few lessons of Welsh done. If you find something that drives you, you will find the time to do it. I know my son would really benefit later in life from learning Welsh (hopefully, fluently when he is older) and it is his heritage. I push myself to keep learning so I can help, and I also get to learn a second language as a bonus".

Gavin Davies has been learning Welsh with 'Say Something In' (www.saysomethingin.com)

Gavin said:

"I receive emails from URTU Learning about the various learning opportunities and we also have a

WhatsApp group at work where our Union Learning Rep posts learning updates. When I received a message about opportunities to learn Welsh, I looked at the various learning options available and came across an online learning platform called "Say Something In". My level of Welsh is very basic, probably 2 out of 10. "I want to learn Welsh" is what I can say at the moment! Before I started learning, I knew some words, but I was not able to put them into sentences.

I liked the look of the online platform – it was easy to learn as instead of having full and long sentences to deal with, I could learn a few words at a time and then make up a sentence. The platform is very user-friendly as you watch a video and at the end, you are able to construct two or three sentences. Basically, you hear a word, repeat it, then hear it again and repeat the cycle. When I get home from work, I have a bit of free time. It only takes about 30 mins each day, so it is not difficult to fit in.

I want to keep the language alive, and I also want to be able to converse in Welsh with my wife. She is fluent in Welsh and has given me the motivation as well as an opportunity to learn. I want to speak the language and regret not learning Welsh at school when I had the opportunity. I have set myself a learning challenge and promised my wife to learn 6 sentences in Welsh by the end of the year".

You can find out more about opportunities to learn Welsh by visiting:

<https://urtuulr.com/learning-wales/>

# URTU Learning

## Driving Skills for the Future



Cefnogir gan y Gronfa Ddysgu Undebau Cymru  
Supported by the Wales Union Learning Fund



### MEN'S HEALTH MOT

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SCAN THE CODE TO ENTER



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[www.urtuulr.com](http://www.urtuulr.com)



Dear Editor

I am writing to you to let yourself and the Union's members know about my recent success in having a book of poetry published.

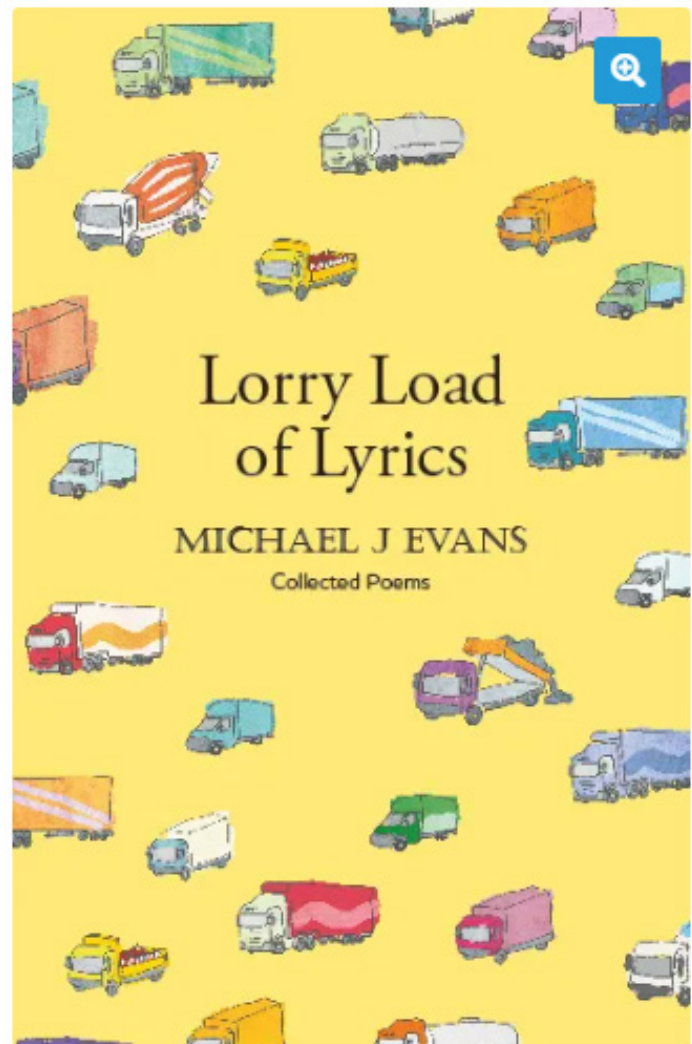
I have been retired for nearly four years now but was previously a member of the United Road Transport Union since the 1970s.

I wanted to tell the Union's members that you don't have to just be a driver who drives, goes home then goes to bed. There are other things you can achieve.

My whole driving life after leaving the Army was spent in the waste industry, driving for Cleanaway and Veolia in Birmingham. It was during my driving breaks. I developed a talent for poetry, so much in fact that I have had my first book published, "Lorry Load of Lyrics" through Crumps Barn Publishers. I know this a plug, but I just wanted to tell your members that there are plenty of things you can achieve as well as driving.

Yours Sincerely

Michael J Evans



# MEMBERS

Dear United Road Transport Union

My name is Ralph Richards and I have been a member for over 18 years. Recently I have needed the help of the Union, and I can not praise their support and assistance enough.

While driving for work I received points and a fine in January this year as well as being involved in a serious accident on a smart motorway, lucky no one was badly injured. I spoke with Paul Gallaher at the Union's Head Office. He was extremely helpful and arranged through the Union's Benevolent Fund, for me to receive financial support towards the fine, which was a very big help.

Because of the accident I received a disciplinary from my compan. , I spoke with Neil Hunter, my Regional Officer, at the start who reassured me and was so supportive. When it came to the hearing Neil was on holiday, so his colleague Peter McKeivitt, who I had not had any dealing with before attended via Zoom. Peter was very professional and supportive throughout the meeting, and I cannot thank him enough for his assistance with this, as he came into the situation at very short notice with very limited information.

Since Neil's return, he has continued to support me and is now helping me with my redundancy. I do not know what the outcome will be, but I feel so grateful to have Neil on my side as he is so supportive, friendly, and enthusiastic, extremely professional, very knowledgeable and has a good communication skills, all in all a top man and a real asset to the Union.

I cannot praise the Union enough and would recommend anyone to join, when you speak to either your Regional Officer or the staff at their Head Office, you receive a friendly attitude and lots of support. It is a real comfort to know that you have someone in your corner supporting you with any issue.

Everyone always gets back to you as soon as possible if they cannot be contacted straight away, which is very reassuring to know someone is always there. And I want to stress that Neil Hunter is a top man.

Many thanks

Ralph Richards

# LETTER'S

# Online Reps Courses

We understand that all our members have busy lives, especially our Union Lay Representatives (Shop Stewards and Health & Safety Representatives).

To try and alleviate some of the pressure, we are considering looking into the possibility of offering our Union Courses online through Video conferencing. Before we move forward with this we would like to hear from our Lay Reps their thoughts on this. Please e-mail [info@urtu.com](mailto:info@urtu.com) with your thoughts.





# Course Dates

Union Representatives play a vital role within the Union, helping members within their branches and recruiting. To support them your Union hosts a number of courses throughout the year. These courses are designed to give the representative the skills they need to undertake their role and are specifically tailored to the Logistics sector.

Below is a list of upcoming course dates. These are held at the Quorn Grange Hotel and are a three day residential course.

To book your place on one of these courses, please contact your Union's Head Office on 0161 486 2100 or freephone 0800 526 639. You can also e-mail them at [admin@urtu.com](mailto:admin@urtu.com)

**4 – 7 December 2023 – Basic Shop Steward**

**5 – 8 February 2024 – Basic Health & Safety**

**4 – 7 March 2024 – Basic Shop Steward**

**18 – 21 March 2024 – Advanced Shop Steward**

**8 – 11 April 2024 – Advanced Health & Safety**

**22 – 25 April 2024 – Basic Shop Steward**

# Hey there!

## Fancy FREE training courses?

We've got FREE fully funded courses available for you to upskill, reskill and personally develop

With over 35 Level 2 distance learning courses available, you can learn at a time and place that suits you.

### To qualify for funding you must:

- △ be aged 19 or over (if aged between 19-23, you must already have a minimum Full Level 2 or equivalent qualification)
- ◇ live in England only
- have been living in the UK, EU or EEA for the last 3 years
- ◇ not have previously completed the course you are wanting to enrol on or another course where the content is similar
- △ not be currently enrolled on any other government funded education programme, either with The Skills Network or any other college or provider

Scan to find out more!



[urtuengland.theskillsnetwork.com](http://urtuengland.theskillsnetwork.com)

What do we do?



### Over 1.6m learners

We upskill more than 35,000 learners in the UK alone each year, and offer over 150 courses in 30 countries around the world

Rated Great on



Trustpilot!

Are they really free?

### Yes, through AEB funding!

The Adult Education Budget (AEB) is a government funded scheme encouraging adults across the country to upskill and develop. Worth up to £800 per person per course, the AEB fund allows adults to access free training opportunities throughout England!

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY**

Please complete the form overleaf in full as clearly as possible.

Return the **WHOLE** form to the **United Road Transport Union**.

Your date of entry to the Union will be the date the form is received by Head Office and all benefits will accrue from that date.

We will then forward the signed instruction to your bank or Building Society and the first date of deduction will normally be a fortnight from the Friday following receipt of the form at Head Office.

You should receive a confirmation letter together with your membership card before the first deduction.

ALL INSTRUCTIONS TO PAY YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT CAN BE CANCELLED AT ANY TIME BY YOU INSTRUCTING EITHER YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY.

**SOURCE OF JOINING**

Thank you for applying to join the UNITED ROAD TRANSPORT UNION.  
Please would you complete the following.

How did you learn about URTU? Was it from:

Please tick appropriate box

- |                                 |                          |    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----|
| Wheels magazine                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 02 |
| Shop Steward / Branch Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> | 04 |
| Trade Union Official            | <input type="checkbox"/> | 05 |
| A friend                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 06 |
| Internet                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 08 |
| Lymm Truck Wash                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 09 |

Other .....

**UNITED ROAD TRANSPORT UNION**  
 Almond House, Oak Green,  
 Stanley Green Business Park,  
 Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6QL  
 FREEPHONE 0800 526639 / 0161 486 2100



## Application for Membership 2024

Title..... First Name(s)..... Surname.....  
 Address.....  
 Home Tel No..... Postcode.....  
 Mobile Tel No.....  
 E-mail..... Date of birth.....  
 Occupation..... Branch Ref (if known).....  
 Name and address of employer..... Depot.....

This address will be used for balloting purposes

**Contribution Scales** Please tick against how often you wish to pay

	Monthly	Quarterly	Half-Yearly	Annually
(Driver) Scale A+BF	£20.11 <input type="checkbox"/>	£60.39 <input type="checkbox"/>	£120.81 <input type="checkbox"/>	£2241.64 <input type="checkbox"/>
(Non-Driver) Scale A	£16.50 <input type="checkbox"/>	£49.56 <input type="checkbox"/>	£99.17 <input type="checkbox"/>	£198.37 <input type="checkbox"/>
Part-Time	£9.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	£27.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	£54.02 <input type="checkbox"/>	£108.04 <input type="checkbox"/>

Notes on Contribution Scales: Driver A+BF means your membership includes participation in the URTU's Benevolent Fund, designed specifically for drivers. Part-time staff are those working less than 20 hours per week.

Are you at present / recently a member of any trade union?  Yes  No  
 If yes, name of union..... Membership No.....

**CONSENT:** Please ensure you sign and date below. By signing this application form to join the Union, I agree to be subject in every respect to the Rules of the Union. I consent to the Union processing my personal data as part of its legitimate activities in providing membership services and benefits as a Trade Union, as stated in its Rule Book and in its Privacy Policy. The Privacy Policy is available on our website. It explains how we use and protect your personal data.

Signed..... Date.....  
 Your date of entry to the Union will be the date the form is received by Head Office and all benefits will accrue from that date.  
 For Office Use: Membership No..... Date of Entry.....



### Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:  
**United Road Transport Union, Almond House, Oak Green,  
 Stanley Green Business Park, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 6QL**

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
Postcode	

Name(s) of account holder(s)

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Bank/building society account number

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Branch sort code

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Service user number

9	1	4	6	0	9
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Reference (For office use only)

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#### Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay United Road Transport Union Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with United Road Transport Union and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)
Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee



- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit United Road Transport Union will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request United Road Transport Union to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by United Road Transport Union or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society
  - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when United Road Transport Union asks you to
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.