

31st March 2005

TO: All members of the CMA Section
of Amicus

Dear Colleague,

AMICUS AND THE CMA SECTION

I am taking the opportunity of writing to you at this juncture for two reasons. First, and perhaps most importantly, to provide you as members of the CMA Section of Amicus with full details of the dispute currently taking place between the National Executive Committee of Amicus, and the CMA Sectional Executive Committee. Full details are set out in the attached report. Secondly, as part of the process of providing you with this information, to endeavour to correct some of the inaccurate stories and misleading information which is being circulated regarding our present difficulties with the Executive Committee of the CMA Section of Amicus.

Until now I have deliberately refrained from communicating the full details of the difficulties with the CMA Sectional Executive Committee, because both the National Executive Committee of Amicus, and I, were anxious not to seek to exacerbate those difficulties in any way whilst the opportunity still remained to resolve matters. That is no longer an option.

Unfortunately, and very regrettably, the members of the CMA Sectional Executive Committee have decided to take your union to court, and have instigated legal proceedings against Amicus. I ought to clarify that CMA no longer exists as a union and is now the CMA Section of Amicus, in other words we are all members of one union i.e. Amicus.

Even more regrettable the CMA Sectional Executive have rejected an offer made in good faith to restore the previous arrangements whilst we seek a judicial assessment as to the rightful ownership of the CMA Sectional assets. It is interesting that the reason for rejection indicates that the SNEC fear an interpretation of all the rules as justifying the position in favour of Amicus and instead they wish to rely on a dubious letter from a former MSF officer (who had no authority due to MSF and the AEEU having already merged at that time and being subject to the authority of the JEC) to claim it changes the fundamental principle in the original transfer documents. Even if this were the case, and it most certainly isn't, it shows a dishonourable attempt by the SNEC to have its' cake and eat it.

As a result, the opportunity for the matter to be resolved by dialogue has now been curtailed.

The CMA SNEC have engaged, and now continue, in what appears to be a pointless and potentially hugely expensive exercise, which seemingly is designed solely to ensure the continuance of the current arrangements and practices for members of the CMA Sectional Executive Committee. These moves on their part will not be without great expense, both to you as members of the CMA Section, and to Amicus as a whole. They may come to regret that the costs fall on themselves as individuals and/or endangers the future of CMA House.

Furthermore, their activities will clearly only serve to frustrate Amicus' ability to protect members not only in Royal Mail, but also in their outsourced operations. Whilst their actions are unlikely to alter the eventual result they will waste a huge amount of time and money in the process, as well as creating unnecessary divisions within the membership at a time when we need to be united and focussed on the external threat.

In summary you have the following choices. Support the current stance taken by the members of the CMA Sectional Executive Committee, meaning:

- Paying higher contributions than other Amicus members.
- Preventing CMA Section members from receiving the very best that Amicus can deliver if we work together industrially and politically.
- Spending many thousands of pounds per year on unnecessary meetings.
- Wasting the equivalent cost of more than the one additional full time officer just on members of the CMA Sectional Executive Committee continuing to meet unnecessarily.

Or, support change in line with Amicus' industrial, occupational and professional structure:

- Reducing maximum union contributions to £2.12 per week.
- Receiving the same membership benefits and professional support as other Amicus members do, with the added benefit of dedicated full time officers continuing to support the representational needs of CMA Section members.
- Uniting and focussing our entire organisational, industrial and political power on the changes affecting members in the Royal Mail, instead of infighting in the union.

Both the Amicus National Executive Committee, and I, would like to receive your views on the real issues involved in this matter, and on how you see the future with the CMA Section playing a full and integral role as part of Amicus. Please take the time to read the attached paper, and then send me your views. You may also wish to tell your CMA representatives how you feel about the issues, and whether you are happy for the CMA Sectional Executive Committee to continue using the resources of the membership to fight the battles described in the paper.

You can write to me at Hayes Court, West Common Road, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7AU. Please mark your envelope *CMA Consultation*. Alternatively you may email your views at: CMA.sector@amicustheunion.org. If you have any employment related or membership queries, then please telephone: 0845 850 4242.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Simpson
General Secretary