

POSTAL DISPUTE UPDATE



ROYAL MAIL VOLUME LOSS CLAIMS IN PERSPECTIVE

The convenient round figure of a 10% volume loss is the latest strap line for all managers to justify yet more attacks on our members' jobs, pay and conditions. Yet, at no stage has the company provided the Union with any proper information that could be fairly validated.

Remember this is the company who have been severely criticised by Government and Hooper for not being transparent over their numbers.

So What is the Real Position with Volume Decline?

The Union accepts that there has been some volume decline, but it is difficult to quantify exactly how much and we believe it will vary from function to function and office to office.

It is likely that the recession has had a short term impact on volumes, but it is too early to say the extent to which this trend will continue.

The issue of volume decline must be put into context:

1. The introduction of competition has definitely had an impact on volumes in what is known as the upstream end of the market i.e. Mail Centres and Regional Distributions Centres. However, it appears Royal Mail take no account of the fact that all of the competitor's mail still has to be delivered by our members.
2. Royal Mail has changed the items per kilo figure which is the key figure involved in reporting overall volumes of mail. This means, when they compare this year with last year they are not comparing like for like.
3. Even if 10% volume decline was accurate, to assess the impact this has on our members' workload you must also take into account the decline in jobs. Royal Mail claim there has been over 40,000 job losses. A 10% volume loss set against a 30% loss in jobs means postal workers are now working harder than ever.