No. 643/2017 Ref: SB/clm 24 November 2017

**TO ALL BRANCHES WITH T&FS MEMBERS**

Dear Colleague,

**Manpower Campaign – Close The Gap!**

Over the past three weeks the CWU has been actively campaigning on behalf of our Manpower members working on the BT account to close the pay gap, where currently Manpower employees are paid significantly less than BT colleagues doing exactly the same work.

There are currently 2000 Manpower employees working on the BT account with the majority earning below the real Living Wage.

The campaign objectives has been to ensure that our Manpower members are paid at the very minimum the real Living Wage of £8.75 and to eradicate pay between assignment contracts that artificially keep pay rates low.

This tour of events outside BT sites started at Doncaster on 7 November has included 16 BT sites in all parts of the UK including Dundee, Truro, Bangor and Portadown.

I would like to thank those branches that have worked really hard to make their event successful and to the Regional Secretaries, Telecoms Organisers and Postal colleagues who have given their time to support the campaign.

We have secured thousands of signatures on the petitions, engaged with our Manpower members and have recruited new members. Many members have shared their experiences of being trapped into in-work poverty and the effect of having to live on low pay.

Some of these accounts have been recorded on video where Manpower members have taken the opportunity to speak up about what it is like to be on low pay and the impact it has upon their lives.

For the first time we have actively used social media in the campaign to communicate with our members and to amplify our message to a wider audience in order to generate public and political support. This has undoubtedly been successful as our social media posts have been circulated by leading politicians, industry specialists, the media, TUC and other Trade Unions.

We now intend to move into the next phase of the campaign as it is likely that the Government will be consulting on the use of Pay Between Assignment contracts in the New Year. I will therefore be writing to you shortly on how you can get involved in the next phase.

Many thanks for your support #CloseTheGap

Any questions or queries should be addressed to Sally Bridge sabridge@cwu.org

<https://www.cwu.org/campaign/close-the-gap/>

<http://www.cwu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Petition-with-header-v2-with-return-address.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

**Sally Bridge**

National Officer