

CWU donates to postal workers in UK, strike impacting Ireland

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The Communications Workers Union (CWU) has donated €100,000 to its sister union, CWU UK in its dispute with Royal Mail, at which the ongoing industrial action is impacting postal operations in Ireland.

Postal workers in the UK went on strike numerous times throughout the second half of 2022, with forms of industrial action rolling into 2023, over the workers' dispute with management on pay and working conditions.

The Royal Mail dispute is one of the larger cases of industrial strife that has engulfed the UK since 2021.

It is understood that following a recent intervention by the Board of Royal Mail there is now optimism of agreement to put in place a process to resolving the major dispute at Royal Mail.

The involvement of the Board of the UK's postal service would be considered highly unusual in industrial relations terms.

The CWU UK have alleged various anti-union activities by the employer. The path to resolving the dispute is subject to what the CWU UK says is its demand that the targeting of union members ceases.

A possible route to resolving the dispute in the UK would be a welcome development in Ireland, as the dispute is having a negative impact on An Post, which is adding to the revenue/customs problems associated with Brexit.

DONATION

The CWU in Ireland has made a significant financial contribution of €100,000 to the CWU UK, in order to "help alleviate the financial hardships their members are enduring in the course of the ongoing dispute with Royal Mail."

The union says it has acknowledged that postal workers employed by Royal Mail in the UK "are involved in a difficult fight to save their jobs against a confrontational management which is employing intimidating and threatening tactics against their workers and union representatives."

Commenting on the donation CWU General Secretary, Seán McDonagh said, “CWU Ireland has publicly declared its solidarity with Royal Mail workers, and we have condemned the outrageous direct attacks on individual CWU UK members and their Union leaders. We have also called on Royal Mail’s senior management to immediately desist from its confrontational approach and engage meaningfully with CWU UK to bring an end to this dispute.”

Mr McDonagh noted that the Chief Executive of Royal Mail was required to attend a second Parliamentary hearing to provide additional information and clarify evidence he had given prior.

The CWU UK has renewed its mandate for industrial action, following the 2022 strikes, with a 95.9% ballot in favour of industrial action. The UK union represents 111,000 postal workers.