



MESSAGE FROM ROGER MADDISON, NATIONAL OFFICER

At a meeting with Nissan Management on 8 July, it became clear that once again the forthcoming wage negotiations will be difficult. When other car manufacturers are meeting claims with inflation plus deals, Nissan seem almost certain to relate the forthcoming pay offer to the entry ticket for the new model. The union did not agree to this position. A below inflation pay deal would be unacceptable anywhere else in the industry, now is the time for those not already members to join and demand a pay settlement that they deserve, recognising their contribution to many years of record production, and more recently, the stunning success of the Qashqai.

Now, more than ever, would strong trade union representation from a majority membership prove a financial benefit to all workers.

I would also like to congratulate Mick Sherriff, your convener, on his election to Unite's Executive Council.

I would like to place on record my thanks and support for colleagues at Nissan, as I change roles to represent colleagues as National Officer for the Motor Components Sector.

Roger J Maddison, National Officer

Unite National Executive Council and National Sector Committee

Mick Sherriff was recently elected to the National Executive Council of the union to represent the interests of members working in the Vehicle Building & Automotive Sector.

Mick said "It is an honour and a privilege to be representing Nissan members, and those of the whole sector on the National Executive Council of the union".

Nissan reps are also well represented on the National Sector Committee with Paul Cox and Dave Connolly elected to that body, Mick Sherriff is also entitled to participate by virtue of his Executive Council position, giving Nissan 3 representatives at the heart of the Vehicle Building & Automotive Sector. Mick Sherriff said "Nissan members are now, without doubt, very well represented in the decision making machinery of Unite the Union".

Members can meet reps and discuss work and sector issues, and the wider union at the monthly branch meetings which are held on the 4th Monday of each month in the Nissan Sports & Social Club at 7pm. In the event of the 4th Monday being a public holiday, the meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday.

MESSAGE FROM DAVE OSBORNE, NATIONAL OFFICER

Following the merger of our two unions and the creation of the new industrial structures, I have been given national responsibility for UNITE members in the Vehicle Building and Automotive sector.

This group incorporates all the major automotive companies and in addition to my current position as Chair of the trade unions at Ford, Jaguar, Land Rover, BMW, and others, I have been given national responsibility for representing our members at Nissan, Toyota and Honda.

I have been a trade union activist in the industry since 1974 and have been privileged to represent the union as a shop steward, convener, regional officer and national officer.

I look forward to working with new colleagues at Nissan, with the aim of raising the living standards of our members, ensuring dignity at work and countering the worst excesses of corporate greed.

My best wishes go to Roger Maddison who I know will do an excellent job on behalf of our members in the Motor Components sector.

NEWS FOR MEMBERS

During the recent recruitment of new employees, the union has been participating in the induction process and has had significant success in signing up new members, to date we have recruited over 400 of those new employees into the union. While this is positive it still remains vital for you, the active member inside, to continue to urge your colleagues to join Unite in order to maximise our influence with the employer.

As we go to press we are embarking on an election process for Health & Safety reps in a number of departments around the plant.

It is our intention to begin an electronic newsletter for Nissan members to be available online, we will notify you of the details when the facility is up and running.

ADVICE FOR MEMBERS

Representation

Any Unite member called in to a disciplinary investigation meeting must request their shop steward attend with them as their representative. The principle of representation at investigation stage of the disciplinary procedure was agreed at an Employment Tribunal hearing which highlighted the benefit of such representation.

Reporting of Accidents, and the Rights of Witnesses

All accidents at work must be reported. The injured person must ensure, wherever possible that the accident is recorded in the accident book. If members encounter any problems in recording accidents, they should contact their union Health & Safety representative or Shop Steward immediately.

There is no legal requirement for witnesses of accidents to provide a statement to the employer. Should a witness wish to provide a statement then they should do so in their own time, sign and date the statement and keep a copy for themselves as well as passing a copy to their union health & safety representative or shop steward. Members should not feel compelled into signing witness statements that they are uncomfortable with.

Members are further advised to request representation from their Shop Steward at ZIP (Zero Injuries Programme) counselling meetings.

Members who suffer an injury or illness as a result of their work can obtain an accident claim form from their Shop Steward, union Health & Safety rep or by contacting the Regional Office on 0191 260 3777.

Alternatively members can submit a claim online through the union's website: www.amicustheunion.org

Discrimination, Bullying & Harassment

Members should be entitled to work in an environment of mutual trust and respect, free from all forms of harassment.

If you have a concern, and believe you are the subject of unacceptable behaviour at work you should not put up with it. If you feel able, talk directly with the person, to explain why their actions have caused you concern. If this does not resolve the issue, or you do not feel able to speak to the person you can speak to your shop steward in confidence. Shop stewards have training and experience in dealing with these situations, and will advise you as to the best course of action, whether that be informally or through the formal grievance procedure.

HOW TO CONTACT US

REGIONAL OFFICE

The union's Regional Office and Nissan Branch Full Time Official contact details are:

Dave Telford
Transport House
John Dobson Street
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8TW

Telephone: 0191 260 3777 Fax: 0191 260 5188
Email: dave.telford@unitetheunion.com

Would all members who no longer work at Nissan please contact the regional office in order to update their employment details with us.

If you as a member have anything to contribute to future editions of the newsletter, contact your shop steward:

Mick Sherriff
Paint, Plastics, & Castings Ext
Ext: 2477

Paul Cox
Units, Axels, T&C 1&2
Ext: 2746

Dave Connolly
Indirect
Tel: 0191 428 4817 (Port of Tyne)

Martin Lydon
All semi-direct
Ext: 2095

At time of going to press a vacancy exists in Body & Press



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