

DIFFICULT TIMES IN LLOYDS BANKING GROUP RETAIL DIVISION - AROUND 1600 JOB LOSSES ARE ANNOUNCED IN THE SPACE OF 2 WEEKS

Early June has seen announcement of around 1600 job losses in the Retail business. Unite is deeply concerned about the extent of the job losses being revealed week after week across the new Lloyds Banking Group as the executive seeks to achieve the cost savings it has promised to the Shareholders. The job losses not only in LBG but right across the UK Finance sector are mounting all the time and it is a very grim time for workers in our sector.

The job losses in Retail over the last 2 weeks include:

- 834 jobs in Cheltenham and Gloucester Branches affecting over 900 people due to the decision to close all branches with effect from early November this year.
- 210 staff in the Retail mortgages centre in Chatham which will close
- 318 roles in the Community Bank Regional and Head office structures
- 159 staff involved in Intermediary Mortgage sales nationwide together with their support teams.
- 28 Retail Mortgages Senior Managers
- 15 Senior managers' PA's
- approx 100 roles in other Retail Head Office functions nationwide

Unite has been consulted in detail over a number of weeks about all of these plans and whilst it has been impossible to reverse the Bank's decisions we have done everything we can to influence the decisions, to make sure the redundancy selection process is fair and equitable and ensure those staff directly affected are treated with dignity and respect.

The Bank is committed to avoiding compulsory redundancy wherever possible and we know that a good number will be content to accept voluntary redundancy or not actively seek redeployment.

These are extremely worrying times for those affected and no-one should be without the help and protection that membership of Unite can provide at times like these.

Unite's key role now will be to assist those members affected especially if they want to formally challenge the fairness of their selection. We will also do everything possible is done to ensure those who want to remain with LBG can secure an alternative role.

This can be through a number of ways such as:

- ensuring that displaced colleagues get priority for any vacant roles
- ensuring that opportunities for "bumping" are explored (this means staff who are not at risk of redundancy being able to express an interest in voluntary redundancy to create opportunities for those who want to stay).

Whilst the Bank will not open up a register for voluntary redundancy colleagues who want to express an interest in creating a "bumping" opportunity can contact their local HR business partner or speak to a Unite rep.

Unite members wanting help or advice should contact us by e-mailing lbg.support@unitetheunion.com or call our LBG helpline on 08081 449595 (C&G members can call our C&G helpline on 01452 375420)

Gwyn Bates
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