

Dear Colleague,

With branches currently deciding upon their nominations for the National elections for TFS Executive and NEC, I am writing to seek your branch nomination as I am currently running for another term on the executive and would appreciate your branch's nomination for the NEC / TFSE.

I have been honoured to have been able to represent our members in numerous companies for several years and I will continue to make sure that the issues and concerns of all members are heard and addressed. I will continue to fight for further accountability of the executive and will continue to promote the membership and keep the flow of information to all members. I believe that strength in members and knowledge make a powerful combination that can keep us together, I also believe that in the future the union must take a much firmer line in defence of members jobs and terms and conditions of employment.

Over the past year the union has faced some difficult decisions and undoubtedly this situation will continue as BT management continues with their hard line stance and challenge our resolve as a union on issues such as performance management, attendance issues to name but two, and I believe that the executive is nearing the time when it will have to decide upon which route we as a union should take.

Will it be as now, in a "partnership role" with the employer? This would undoubtedly lead to the prospect of further changes to members terms and conditions of employment in order to retain some form of job security agreements, and whilst the release schemes have now stopped, there will in the future, undoubtedly be a call from BT to reduce the headcount - as the benefits of 21CN kick in - so do we as a union continue with the current "spirit of co-operation" and simply acquiesce to the company, or will we as a union concentrate our resources to maintain our members current terms and conditions?

Whichever route we take I believe that ***our willingness to agree to policies should not be to the detriment of our members*** and our mandate should always be to represent the views of our members. Undoubtedly there will be difficult decisions and choices in the forthcoming year and the leadership of the union will need to be strong and resolute, but as long as the executive act for, and consult with, the membership we will remain united.

Representing the Union has been an awesome privilege for me these past few years and I look forward to the opportunity to continue this with your assistance and would welcome any invitation to speak to your branch members if required.

Regards and best wishes

Steve Catterall