

Tesco's betrayal - Hannett must go!

Thousands of workers at Tesco, the UK's largest private sector employer, are set to lose hundreds of pounds in pay.

The new pay deal suggests many of the 310,000 workers will have overtime, weekend and night-shift bonuses cut as part of new contracts.

Staff who receive double time for working Sundays and bank holidays will have their pay slashed to time-and-a-half. Premiums currently available for those working between 10pm and 6am will now only be available between midnight and 6am. And overtime previously paid at time-and-a-half or double time will now be at the normal single rate which will affect the majority of Tesco workers who are on part-time contracts and low pay and who rely on overtime to pay the bills.

This follows similar moves in Morrisons & the Co-op where long fought for premium

payments have been surrendered for pay deals that put pay only just above the government's 'living wage'.

The government already subsidises big business £11 billion a year to top up the wages of 5.2 million

low-paid workers - including many supermarket workers - in the form of tax credits and other benefits.

Meanwhile Tesco CEO Dave Lewis received £4.1 million in his first six months as boss in 2015. As one Tesco worker said this week: "I'd rather have a living wage than support the lifestyles of shareholders."

A third of Usdaw's members are in Tesco and who are committed to fighting for a living wage, have been characteristically quiet and lacking in fight over the issue. A vote on pay deals should be restored to Tesco workers

TESCO
*Bit of your wage
Every Little Helps*



and industrial action discussed by the union so that the strength of the 160,000 Usdaw members in Tesco is used to fight against low pay and attacks on conditions.

We say:

- Hannett must go!
- Stop the race to the bottom in terms and conditions
- For a living wage of £10 an hour AND premium payments
- The Broad Left should call an emergency meeting of all those wanting a serious fight for such demands.

Your views - rep's and union members comments

I almost laughed when I was told by my manager that I was getting a pay rise. From July I will be paid 23p more an hour. Great, what's not to like? But I almost laughed because I'd already seen page four of the leaflet we were given which explains the 'changes to premiums', the changes being cuts. Cuts to Sunday, overtime and night working premiums - all of which I rely on the make my pay packet resemble a living one.

I start work at 5am meaning at the moment I get £2.18 on top of my hourly rate for the first hour of my shift each day, I work Sundays so get time-and-a-half for that and the same rate when I do overtime which is pretty often. All this is being cut (as reported in last week's issue) meaning that I won't be getting a pay 'rise' at all.

That's why I almost laughed. I didn't though because there is nothing funny about struggling to make ends meet. And while I'm not getting a rise, there are other people I work with, especially part-timers and night staff who are getting a pay cut due to the loss of premiums!

I became a trade union rep to make the working lives of my colleagues better but I felt I was doing the opposite when breaking the news of the pay deal to them. I wish I could

do more. I work on the back door and regularly talk to drivers and distribution workers who still have a vote on pay and have threatened taking industrial action.

I've also seen photos on Facebook of mass meetings in Ireland called by the Tesco workers' union there. This gives me confidence we can fight and I think Usdaw

should do more to lead that fight, this is why I became a rep and my members pay their subs.

First co-op, then Morrisons, now this in Tesco - do our leaders think we enjoy working weekends? Are they so doomed to defeat by lacklustre campaigning on Sunday trading that they think we should treat it as a normal working day already.

There is another group of workers fighting attempts to cut their pay and make them work unsociable hours who also don't have a tradition of taking strike action at present. Those are the junior doctors who have taken 2 days worth of strike action so far.

If the junior doctors can do it, why can't retail workers? Call meetings and protests to engage the members as a step towards working out a strategy for industrial action which as well as strikes could include work-to-rule.

Usdaw's leadership help Tesco management make us pay for their mistakes—time we taught them both a lesson.



One of several meetings to fight similar attacks on Irish Tesco workers organised by Mandate trade union - why can't Usdaw do the same here?