OFFICERS AND STAFF PENSION FUND

ANNOUNCEMENT TO MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF MEMBER NOMINATED TRUSTEES

One of the major provisions of the Pensions Act 1995 is to give a right to members of occupational pension schemes to select member trustees. The Act sets down that at least one third of the scheme’s trustees should be nominated with a minimum of two for those schemes with more than 100 members.

The right to nominate, and to elect, Member Trustees has been enjoyed by members of the GPMU scheme for many years. At present there are seven trustees, three of whom have been elected by postal ballot of the active members, three of whom are appointed by the union’s Executive Council and one, the GPMU general secretary, there by right of office.

Under the Act, member nominated trustees must be allowed to serve for between three and six years and must be eligible to stand for re-selection at the end of their term.

In the GPMU the three elected trustees serve for a period of two years, coinciding with the members’ biannual general meeting. They are entitled to stand for re-election.

Under the Act, the unanimous approval of all other trustees is required to remove a member nominated trustee.

In the GPMU scheme such trustees can be removed only by resolution of the members of the plan.

The Executive Council of the GPMU has considered the current practice in the scheme in relation to the provisions of the Act. It considers that the scheme’s arrangements are in advance of the new requirements and have worked well for many years.

GENERAL SECRETARY TONY DUBBINS
KEYS HOUSE, 83-87 BROMHAM ROAD, BEDFORD MK40 2AG
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It has therefore resolved that it wishes to continue with the present arrangement under which three member-nominated trustees serve for two years and are removable only by resolution of the members.

It has also agreed that both active and retired members of the scheme will now have the right to nominate and to vote.

Under the Act the trustees of the scheme are required to consult with members on this decision. Should more than 10% of members register an objection, a ballot must be held or the union will need to put forward new proposals.

What to do now

If you agree with this announcement, you do not need to reply to it. You will then be sent details of how to nominate a member trustee and, if more than three are put forward, a voting paper.

If you disagree, you can write registering your objection to:

Financial Secretary
Graphical, Paper and Media Union
Keys House
63-67 Bromham Road
BEDFORD MK40 2AG

Your objection must be received by 31st August 1997.

On behalf of the trustees:

J C Brough (chair)  J R Fieldhouse
G D Beaver  J Mitchell
N D A Crowley  D Munro
A D Dubbins