

Driving Company Vehicles

Vehicle Checks & Driver Monitoring

We have seen an increase in management investigations relating to failures to complete PUI vehicle checks (Pre-Use Inspections) via the Holman app. Please take a few extra moments to ensure your checks are properly recorded and that the app has successfully submitted the inspection, rather than remaining stuck on the same screen.

A number of members have unfortunately found themselves facing disciplinary action because there was no recorded evidence that the vehicle check had been completed.

With the ongoing changeover from diesel to electric vans, the previous BT practice of combining servicing with non-fail MOT preparation appears to have become less consistent. Nationally, one vehicle recently failed its MOT due to a lack of windscreen wash, and this was subsequently recorded on the CARM system.

Speeding & Driver Safety App

Most members will already be aware of the Driver Safety app installed on work phones, which links to vehicles through the Internet Location Manager (ILM). Some colleagues may already have received reports relating to excessive braking or harsh acceleration.

The app is now also generating reports for speeding incidents, defined as driving more than 10% above the speed limit. Current information suggests that after 30 recorded incidents, a stepped process may follow involving emails, training courses, and potentially disciplinary action.

Our understanding is that the link between ILM and the Driver Safety app is active regardless of whether individuals have signed up to the app or not.

Please pay particular attention to the growing number of 20 mph speed zones.



Reorganisations

Where would we be without the regular re-shuffling and the issuing of new OUCs?

Changes within Service Delivery senior management have now taken place, with senior managers allocated broad areas of responsibility. However, the finer detail of exactly how the map will be carved up is still to come, as managers currently only have a rough idea of their areas.



So, does this mean local manager areas will change? Quite possibly, as much will depend on how the higher-level areas are finally allocated. Will your own manager change? At this stage, nobody can say for certain. As with all re-orgs, it will all come out in the wash.

One positive development is the continued integration of Copper and Fibre teams. Encouraging copper engineers to develop fibre skills, while allowing fibre engineers to draw on the experience and support of copper colleagues, can only strengthen the workforce, without anyone getting territorial about it.

Complex teams are not escaping the latest round of reorganisation either, with the current seven areas reportedly being reduced to four. There is also discussion that some Voluntary Paid Leaver opportunities may become available for eligible employees.

Long gone are the days when you proudly displayed your OUC sticker above the windscreen!

Workplace Passports

There are a number of workplace passports available through the company, and they can be extremely useful as they stay with you wherever you work or whichever manager you move to. If you already have an active passport in place, you do not need to repeatedly explain your circumstances every time management changes. eg (joke) not climbing too many poles as it may result in your leg falling off at an inconvenient moment.

More seriously, passports are available for a wide range of circumstances including medical conditions, parenting responsibilities, caring commitments, and other support needs.

As we mark Dementia Action Week (18–24 May), we wanted to highlight the support available both for carers of relatives living with dementia and for those who may themselves be affected by the condition.

Dementia is often associated with older people, but it can affect younger adults too. The youngest recorded diagnosis was at just 19 years old, with symptoms beginning at 17.

For members caring for elderly parents or relatives with dementia, a carers passport can help formally recognise the pressures and responsibilities involved. It can record agreed flexible working arrangements, provide access to unpaid carers leave, allow emergency leave where care arrangements suddenly break down, and help signpost support such as the Employee Assistance Programme for counselling and wellbeing support.

External organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK, and Age UK can also provide valuable advice and support.

Watching parents, or loved ones, slowly fade from their own lives can be incredibly difficult. If you feel a workplace passport could help support you, it is worth looking into the options available.

For action week see www.cwuset.uk/dementia-action-week-18th-24th-may/



Political Corner

Labour and Conservatives have taken a hit in the recent local elections and seen the rise of the Greens and the Reform Party. The Prime Minister, Keir Starmer's, job is about as safe as a castle built upon sand.

The Renters Rights Bill, has given people who rent their homes more protections than previously. Here in the South East it is becoming more important as the house prices seem to get further and further out of reach of most people.

Donald Trump has been Donald Trump. He decided to bomb Iran without consultation and then complained that we didn't all join in. He used up the majority of his weapons and destroyed Iran's infrastructure and gave them a deadline to comply, then another one, then another one. It's almost as if he's waiting for a delivery of more bombs!

Ukraine offered assistance with the Iranian drones, without the need for wearing a suit.

There are approximately 10 wars going on in the world at the moment. All of these wars will have people like me and you caught up in them.

A new breakthrough in a vaccine for Ebola might have been found.

The world cup is coming, with the usual high expectations. Perhaps a new prime minister will be found after all ?



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