

Jobs To India: Sticking To Facts

Over the past year LTU has been keeping members fully informed with reliable information on the Bank's plans to transfer work from the UK to India.

The Union's predictions were proven correct when, late last month, the Bank confirmed it is to expand its operation in India. Work for 1,500 staff will be transferred to Hyderabad.

Keeping Things in Context?

In a recent Business TV communication to Managers, the Bank insisted staff must keep its announcement "in context"; even suggesting that today's headlines would be tomorrow's "fish and chip paper". It pointed out that this 'phase' concerns just 1,500 staff compared with a total of 25,000 working across all non-branch areas.

It is important to remember, however, that when this phase is completed at the end of 2004, the Bank has said it will make a decision on how many more jobs will follow.

To amplify this point, Managers in one part of Lloyds TSB have been briefed that "it is the Bank's intention to transfer 60% of its operations to India with 40% remaining in the UK".

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No Redundancy Guarantees

The Bank has failed to provide any guarantees that there will be no compulsory redundancies either as a direct or indirect result of transferring work abroad. It merely says redundancies would be a last resort.

Record Customer Response

LTU's customer petition has received an overwhelming response.

In fact, last week LTU's petitioners achieved a record, with every single customer approached visiting a Sunderland branch signing the petition.

Meanwhile, the most customers to so far sign the Union's petition in a single day (635) was at Tamworth Branch. LTU intends to collect half a million signatures from across the UK.

Challenging the 'Spin'

Over recent weeks the Union has been concerned by statements made on behalf of the Bank, which appear to be designed to mislead staff about the success of LTU's campaign to stop the transfer of work abroad.

In the Business Television (BTV) broadcast a number of statements were made about the Union's campaign of petitioning outside branches in order to give customers a say on the Bank's plans. These included suggestions that:

- **The Union's campaign is 'anti-India'.**

This is wholly untrue. LTU's objection is to the transfer of work to any other country where the Bank's motivation is principally to obtain low-cost labour and where UK jobs will be lost.

- **LTU staff petitioning outside branches have encouraged customers to complain about the Bank's strategy to branch managers and staff.**

The Bank has accepted this was a wholly untrue statement which it has been unable to substantiate with any evidence. It has acknowledged that LTU staff have acted professionally.

- **LTU is petitioning outside only a few branches.**

This is again wide of the mark. Many hundreds of branches will be visited during LTU's campaign; most often more than once.

Customer Views Must Count

if the Bank believes its customers are disinterested over the transfer of work abroad it is completely out of touch with their views. Customers are overwhelmingly against the transfer of work abroad and this couldn't be clearer.

LTU's experience has been that around 90% of customers spoken to have wanted to sign the Union's petition; at times even queuing to do so.

The Union has collected more than 600 signatures outside some branches and is confident that it will easily reach its target of at least 500,000 customers signing to protest against the transfer of work abroad.

Facts That Count

Of course, the facts that really count are that:

- **From a pilot originally involving less than 250 jobs, the Bank's plans have rapidly progressed to involving 1,500 jobs, with the Bank saying that it will review the position again at the end of 2004 when this 'phase' is complete.**
- **The Bank itself has acknowledged that around 25,000 UK staff work in the type of non-branch operations that could potentially be transferred abroad.**
- **In one area the Bank has also indicated that it would expect to have a 40:60 split**

between jobs retained in the UK and transferred abroad.

- **The Bank has refused to provide any guarantees that no compulsory redundancies will arise either directly or indirectly as a result of the transfer of work to India.**

Extending Our Campaign

LTU will shortly be announcing an extension

of its campaign to stop the Bank transferring jobs abroad and to return jobs that have already been transferred back to the UK.

This will provide members and customers with further opportunities to persuade the Bank that it should meet its corporate social responsibilities by supporting UK jobs and the UK economy.

Pension Fund Trustee Elections - Have You Voted?

Elections are currently taking place for Directors to sit on the board of the Lloyds TSB Group Pension Trust (No. 1) Limited.

These elections are important since Member Nominated Trustees are able to exercise control over the Pensions Fund and ensure it is managed in the best interests of pensioners and staff. Votes must be returned by 29th October 2003.

It is essential that those elected are not isolated individuals but instead have the resources and backing of a strong trade union.

That's why LTU's Executive Committee are asking members to support the nomination of three members of the scheme:

- **Neilson Smith (Existing Trustee and Chairman of LTU)** - Neilson has served

as LTU Chairman for 7 years. He has been a member of the Union's Executive Committee and Chairman of the South Wales District Committee for the past 20 years.

- **Bryan Jackson (Active Staff and Deputy Chairman of LTU)** - Bryan has served as Chairman of the Union's IT Section Committee as well as on the Executive Committee for a number of years.
- **Laurence Pearse (Existing Trustee)** - Laurence was the Treasurer of LTU for 15 years and was previously a Manager in Lloyds Private Banking. He recently retired from the Union's Executive Committee having served for 21 years.

Your vote is important for the future of the Pension Scheme. Don't waste it.

IAN PARTRIDGE
General Secretary