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Group Operations

Group Operations Closure Plans & Offshoring - 6 Sites To Close With The Loss Of 450 Jobs

Group Operations has today announced that it is to close 6 sites by November with the loss of 450 jobs. It has also made it clear that due to the locations of the sites, re-deployment opportunities will be limited and for many redundancy will be the only option.

The Bank claims that these closures are merely the continuation of the rationalisation programme it began in 2001 and that the closures fit with its longer term plan to have just 5 or 6 Group Operations sites across the country. It says the work from these sites will be moved to other Group Operations sites in the UK and therefore has no connection with its plans to offshore work to India.

However the Bank wishes to brand this exercise and irrespective of where, at least initially the work will be moved, the simple fact is that Group Operation staff in the UK will be losing their jobs whilst Group Operations work is offshored to India. By the end of the year Group Operations says it expects to have around 500 jobs in Bangalore.

The solution is simple. The Bank should bring work back from India to safeguard these jobs. The Bank has always tried to make clear that its offshoring strategy – management jargon for moving work to countries with cheaper staff costs – is not about cost. If there is any remaining credibility in that position it must now act by starting to bring work back to the UK.

The 6 sites that the Bank wants to close are:

- **Plymouth**
- **Epona and Black Horse House, Swansea**
- **Taunton, Stockton and Cardiff NSU's.**

LTU's priority is to ensure that all possible measures are taken to avoid compulsory redundancies or pressure upon staff to accept alternative roles that they do not consider suitable.

LTU full time officials will be on site over the next few days to provide members with immediate independent professional advice and assistance and members also have 24 hour access to the Union's Advice Team on 01234 262868.

Future Closure Plans

The Bank has also said that another 5 offices that are due to be transferred into Group Operations from Wholesale Banking may also close/merge sometime over the next year or so and the work will be moved into other Group Ops sites. However the Bank has told LTU that it is confident that all staff should have a good chance of being redeployed, though there are no guarantees that those alternative jobs will be into other parts of Group Operations.

The Wholesale Banking Operations sites are:

- **Birmingham**
- **Manchester**
- **London**
- **Southampton**
- **Tonbridge.**

Neither have we had any indication yet of the Bank's offshoring plans for 2006 and with its stated aim to reduce the number of Group Operations offices to just 5 or 6 so there is clearly much for staff to be concerned about even if they are successfully redeployed.

LTU has been vehemently opposed to the Bank exporting jobs to India since we first learnt of what it was planning, plans of course that the Bank originally denied having.

LTU has been a lone voice in recognising the very real threat for every member of staff throughout the Bank who has a non-customer facing role that exporting such work to India poses.

The Bank itself has said that 25,000 staff work in the type of operations that could be outsourced and in a recent briefing to senior managers has outlined the steps they should now be taking to identify the types of work that could be moved to India.

Members, staff, need to be in no doubt, if the Bank does not drop this policy then there will be no end in sight to the work that will go to India or any other country which can do processing and administrative jobs for a fraction of the cost.

Only LTU is campaigning for Lloyds TSB jobs to be kept in Britain, but we need your support. If you are not already a member of LTU then join today to help our Campaign.

Newsletters by Email

LTU is offering members the opportunity to receive newsletters by Email.

We will send all newsletters for your area direct to you on the day they are sent to members by post giving you authoritative, immediate information on the issues that matter.

To subscribe to the service all you need do is email us at 24hours@ltu.co.uk with the subject line "Newsletters and your membership number (your file or payroll number)" or phone on 01234 262868. We'll do the rest.

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