

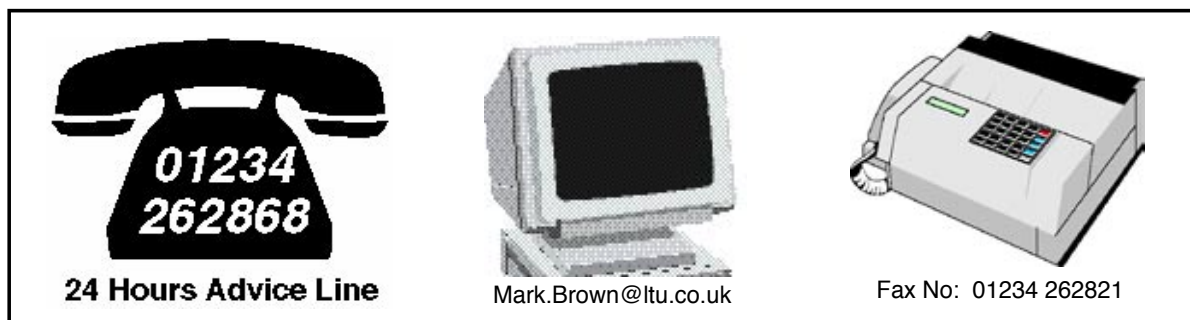
Back To The Future For OB IT Staff

OB IT staff in Service Delivery and Project Support should have now been told officially that they will no longer be part of the Group IT shared services model but will instead revert back to reporting directly to Offshore Banking. Given the large scale change programme currently being undertaken in Group IT, it is not surprising that Offshore Banking's Senior Management has decided that its future IT needs can best be served locally on the Islands.

But what LTU does find surprising is the shambolic way this important decision has been communicated to IT staff. It appears that some staff in Offshore IT were already aware of the decision, whilst others, including the Union and HR, heard about it from members last week when local line management made a formal announcement to staff. Coincidentally, LTU had a meeting with Offshore Banking a few days after that announcement was made to OB IT staff and even then, at that late stage, there were denials that any final decision had been made. The truth is, that had we not decided to issue this Newsletter then the likelihood is that there would still have been no formal announcement of Offshore Banking's change of strategy. That is not the way LTU likes to work.

Offshore Banking IT staff will be aware that LTU has been discussing with Group IT the harmonisation of terms and conditions between the Islands and the mainland. In fact, the new terms and conditions were agreed a few weeks ago and we had planned to issue a Newsletter to members detailing the results of our discussions at the beginning of last week. Group IT had also planned to issue a similar communication to staff at the same time. LTU's Negotiating Committee has spent months seeking to reach agreement with Group IT on the new terms and conditions but as we now know it appears that the Senior Management in Offshore Banking were working to a completely different agenda, which the Bank collectively had failed to mention to the Union in any of the meetings we had whilst discussing the new package.

As far as LTU is concerned our agreement with Group IT is still valid and the fact that OB IT staff will now be reporting to Offshore Banking should not change what we have already agreed. We will be continuing our discussions with Offshore Banking and Group IT shortly and I will keep members informed of developments. In the meantime members with any questions can contact the Union's Bedford Office as follows:



Mark V Brown
Assistant General Secretary