

Amazon workers will decide on union recognition.



Amazon workers are one step closer to Europe's first recognised union at the retail giant.

GMB Union has today announced that the Central Arbitration Committee (CAC), the Government body responsible for regulating collective bargaining between workers and employers, has ruled in favour of GMB's application for a union recognition vote at the company's Coventry Warehouse.

After over a year of industrial action and thirty strike days, the CAC determined that, on the balance of probabilities, a majority of the workers would favour recognition of the Union. This paves the way for a legally binding vote of Amazon Coventry's workforce.



Union recognition would mean Amazon would be forced to sit down with GMB on matters relating to pay, hours, and holidays; the first time this has been achieved anywhere in the world outside of the USA.

This news comes just weeks after union-busting tactics at the Coventry site were exposed when it was revealed workers had been bombarded with anti-union messages by company bosses.

Amazon bosses thwarted earlier attempts by workers to deliver union recognition by flooding the fulfilment centre with over a thousand new staff, in order to sidestep legal recognition thresholds. Despite this, union membership has continued to grow in the company's Coventry Warehouse.

The CAC will now appoint an independent organisation to arrange a legally binding vote of workers, with a ballot timetable likely to be announced in the coming weeks.

Amanda Gearing, GMB Senior Organiser, said:

"From day one of GMB's fight for union rights at Amazon it has been a modern-day David and Goliath battle.

"One year on this is a truly historic moment as workers stand up against the company's relentless anti-union propaganda.

"Workers have won against the odds and will now be given a legally binding say on forming Europe's first recognised union at Amazon.

"Amazon bosses have been sent a clear and unapologetic message from their own workers that they refuse poverty pay and unsafe working condition; they demand dignity at work and a union to represent them".

Rosa Curling, Director of Foxglove, said:

"Amazon is going to pull every dirty trick in the book to keep unions out of their UK warehouses – but the Coventry workers have history on their side.

"This is a huge moment for GMB, and Amazon workers in Coventry who worked for years to earn this historic vote. Foxglove is proud to stand behind them to beat back Bezos' union-busting – and we'll be with them every step of the way."

[Press office](#)

[Member requiring help?](#)



07958 156846

press.office@gmb.org.uk

Click to contact your local GMB Region

info@gmb.org.uk

