



GMB / UNISON - CADENT PENSION NEWS - 14/07/23

Dear Trade Union Member

This is a joint GMB / UNISON communication to all trade union members. We are sending it in advance of a likely move by Cadent Gas to begin a formal 60-day consultation with those workers in the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme, announcing its proposed closure.

We have asked the company to delay beginning the formal 60-day consultation as this will coincide with the key holiday period for many and we have also been told that not all the information we believe is essential to inform the consultation, will be ready. While we have clearly requested a delay, we have not received assurances that this request will be adhered to which is concerning.

No rational justification has been given for closing the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme. The total costs of providing this pension are c£7 million and they are reducing and will continue to do so. At the same time Cadent is making some £950 million in profits and paying some £350 million in dividends to its owners, who were fully aware of the group of workers participating in the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme when they purchased Cadent.

While we hope that the company will delay the start of the consultation (which itself would be a positive move). If they do not, please be assured that we will continue to engage with the business and the members on these proposed changes. We will be surveying members, considering all our options, and submitting a full response to the business. We will also be encouraging all workers to respond to the consultation regardless of the pension they receive, as we cannot be sure that the next target of Cadent Greed will not be the DC Scheme which most workers belong to.

In recognition of this fact, we have also asked (during this pensions review) that the business improves further the DC scheme and to ensure any savings the company makes from scheme closure is recycled into workers pensions and not more payouts to Macquarie and Co. We believe this would be fair and just, based on the huge commitment and dedication workers at Cadent demonstrate every day!

From your joint Cadent staff trade unions – GMB & Unison