
Scottish Socialist Party

SAY NO TO THE PRIVATISATION OF ROYAL MAIL

‘Opening up the postal service to the market has provided no significant benefits to domestic consumers or small businesses’.

That was the stark conclusion reached by the Hutton Report, a study commissioned by the government.

Yet despite this verdict Labour continues with privatisation and puts our universal postal service again in doubt this week. Royal Mail needs capital investment. We have all witnessed, if we are honest, a deterioration in the service it has delivered in recent years but the fact is this has been as a consequence of private companies like TNT and Deutsche Post ‘cherry pick’ the lucrative urban bulk mail business and leaving domestic consumers high and dry.

Typical of all privatisation schemes private companies cream off profitable postal routes and face no service obligation to deliver mail to the front door, whereas the lucrative collection and sorting work is increasingly carried out by private companies like TNT or DHL.

KEEP OUR POSTAL SERVICES PUBLIC

The Scottish Socialist Party believes in a publicly owned postal service which maintains a promise to deliver mail to everyone at the same price to customers everywhere and so do 96% of the Scottish people. Private mail companies are not interested in delivering such a service. In fact they are not interested in the ‘domestic’ mail market at all. They want to concentrate exclusively on profitable city centre business to business mail and never mind the rest of us.

We also recognise that the postal service is desperately in need of investment if it is to become the reliable, modern, quality public service we all want to see. But that investment should come from the government.

Royal Mail is a public service, legally bound to deliver to each and every one of us – all 27million addresses in Britain - on a daily basis.

But of course it is the cross subsidy inherent in this public service which means that the price of a letter from Scotland to London for example is the same as one from the Home Counties into London.

The independent Hooper Review commissioned by the government concluded that the so called ‘liberalisation’ of the postal service, which began in 2005, had simply helped big business and hindered the rest of us. In other words big business saw the cost of its mail fall whilst the rest of us have seen costs increase and service levels fall – in effect a redistribution of wealth from the less well off to the rich.

FOR A POSTAL SERVICE PUBLICLY OWNED, NOT PRIVATISED

The Scottish Socialist Party wholeheartedly supports our universal postal service and postal workers. We want to protect and develop this service to the public.

JOIN THE SCOTTISH SOCIALIST PARTY – FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Interested in finding out more about the Scottish Socialist Party?

Return to; SSP, 8 Alloway Loan, Edinburgh EH16 6XH

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