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International Postal Services

WORLDWIDE NEWSFLASH

Royal Mail Nationwide Walkout Vote Scheduled; Strikes Continue

September 10, 2009

Scattered strikes by Royal Mail workers this week have continued to affect several areas. Peterborough, Battersea, Earls Court, Chelmsford and Southend were hit on Monday. Peterborough, Battersea, Earls Court, Chelmsford and Kings Lynn were affected on Tuesday. In addition, CWU members in Tooting, Balham and Brixton, located in south-west London, staged a 24-hour strike on Tuesday, a day prior to the city-wide walkout. On Wednesday, thousands of postal workers walked out across London. CWU members in south-west London and Wimbledon are due to strike further on Thursday lasting through Friday night. Strike action across London will continue until Saturday when CWU members across England will take industrial action. Finally, additional strike action has been announced for next week, affecting London, Birmingham, Coventry, Essex, Warrington, Bristol, Glasgow and Leeds, as well as South Wales.

In addition to striking postal workers, several local distribution and vehicle operating sites went on strike on Monday and Tuesday, affecting the movement and distribution of mail. The London Airmail Unit also joined in on Wednesday, affecting inbound and outbound international mail.

According to the CWU, up to 20 million items of mail remain undelivered in London sorting offices as a result of the strikes, 1 million in the Bristol area, 500,000 in Peterborough and 250,000 in Leeds; however, Royal Mail insists there are no more than five million undelivered items which they expect to clear in the next few days. In addition, the Royal Mail said that well over 90 percent of its first and second class items have been delivered in good time and that more than 90 percent of its staff are working.

Next Wednesday, CWU members will begin voting on whether to back a nationwide walkout. The polls will close on September 30th and the result of the ballot will be announced on October 1st, coinciding with the last day of the Labour party's annual conference.

Brokers Worldwide Customers

Brokers Worldwide will continue to collect UK-bound mail from our customers. Although the mail will reach the UK in the same amount of time as before, mail services within the UK will be subject to delay. Brokers Worldwide will continue to monitor this situation, and will provide our customers with updates as they become available.

Regards,

Brokers Worldwide

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