



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers



December 2013
NEWSLETTER 6

CV Driver Magazine www.cvdriver.com : Due out shortly, this targeted, free, latest edition 'must read' will hopefully include an article from Truckers' Toilets UK that suggests an easy way to encourage those companies who do allow drivers to use their facilities to want to continue to do so – bearing in mind there is currently no obligation on the part of the company. It's something that every trucker can do!



The IBS Network www.theibsnetwork.org: *Gut Reaction*, the regular magazine of The IBS Network carries an article on standards of toilet facilities for lorry drivers in Australia and Finland. It also warns of the possible lack of toilets in railways stations and restaurants



Middlewich Guardian: *Lorry drivers waste dumping disgusts Middlewich*. This article describes what drivers are forced to do because of the lack of toilet facilities and the effect of these actions on the public. Although the article is dated October, I will be following it up and will be reporting back in a future newsletter



ACoP: The end result of the consultation on the current code of practice re: *Approved Codes of Practice (ACoP) Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992* has been published – and I've read it. I've not compared it word for word but it doesn't seem very different – the reliance on *suggesting* facilities be made available remains. However, there may be possible areas in which questions can be raised and it would be good to have a 'legal eagle' to talk to. Has anyone else read it?



UCLoo Festival: The organisers at London's University College did a great job of putting together a wide variety of events [Nov / beginning Dec] which included a film festival, exhibitions, loo tours, a public lecture by Rose George and a public eco-toilet available daily. It was a marvellous way of continuing efforts to break down publicly the taboo of talking about toilets. When's the next?



Architect meeting follow up: Last month I mentioned *Value the Social* and I've since received a very positive response from one of the speakers I'd contacted about our Campaign. She is interested in our TTUK campaign and wished to use the information I sent her at future events. The news is spreading!



Marylebone Station: I don't know whether the temporary arrangement is still in place but recently the Ladies loos were FREE for a period of time during the installation of new turnstiles. For someone who finds negotiating turnstiles difficult with bags and cases - and [temporarily] a stick, it would have been far easier to have paddle barriers – if there has to be a barrier at all!



High Street rejuvenation: Closing public toilets affects the footfall in our high streets which in turn affects mobile workers. It might be an idea to consider offering a company such as *2theloo* that prides itself on providing excellent toilet facilities as part of the shopping experience in town centres, the opportunity to become established in our flagging towns. No more hunting around for a toilet – it would be there for everyone to use and if suitable parking were to be made available it would improve access for a wide range of mobile workers.



Lady in waiting: replies are currently awaited from the Women's Institute, Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Silverline, Unite the Union and yes, His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales who spoke about 'Public Inconvenience' during his visit to Guernsey where he praised a campaign to raise awareness about the impact of public toilet closures on people with incontinence problems. I'm still looking out for someone with legal experience to help us make our discrimination and dignity challenge. I'll be following up my letters early in January when the Christmas excitement has abated.



Unrest: There are growing rumblings of unrest amongst a large number of Drivers. Working conditions, including inadequate or non-existent toilet and hand-washing facilities are the main causes for this. We should all be aware that truck driving is a professional job and those who work in this field should expect to be treated accordingly; being treated less favourably than on site employees is unacceptable. *Truckers' Toilets UK* is working to achieve an improvement in working conditions for lorry drivers and ultimately ALL mobile workers. Please support our efforts – legal advice is particularly needed. Comments from Companies, both positive and negative, are very welcome and will help us to understand the situation from a different point of view.



2013: *Truckers' Toilets UK* started in June after a visit to Truckfest at Peterborough. Since that time evidence has been collected, aims clarified, and support gathered from a wide range of organisations, individuals and events. The last six months have centred on an awareness campaign. It seems the lack of suitable toilet and hand-washing for truck drivers has not been considered before. Why? I don't know but changes are needed. However, because the current situation is so ingrained it will take time to improve working conditions. Nevertheless a great start has been made.

2014: The aim for *Truckers' Toilets UK* in 2014 is to educate the public about what life on the road is really like and to support drivers in their efforts to make improvements to keep healthy. Drivers to date have been patient. Now they are understandably angry and frustrated. They have to put up with unhealthy and unhygienic practices during the course of their work which in-house staff would not consider acceptable. Hilary Benn, MP appears to realise the importance of toilet access and is consulting with colleagues on the issues I raised with him about drivers accessing toilets and hand-washing.

2014 will be a year for action and discussions are already underway as to the form this action will take.

Are **you** angry enough to support us and make healthy working conditions for lorry drivers one of your New Year Resolutions?

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Truckers-Toilets-UK/520313554691335>



Next issue of **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be January 2014

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