



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

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NEWSLETTER 2-2**

Unite: There has been a positive response from Unite to the analysis by TTUK of a wide range of HSE documents relating to health and welfare facilities of lorry drivers. Equality is a particular issue that will be explored further.



HSE is due to issue their amended Workplace Transport Safety guidance shortly which may include some changes arising from the consultation they carried out earlier this year [to which the Ed – and Unite – responded]



Commercial Motor: 7 August issue carries an excellent article recently displayed on our TTUK Facebook about the driving industry's toilet access problem. It's provided ideas for progressing the next stage of our campaign.



Truck & Driver: 12 August issue has another great article by Chris Tindall with the emphasis this time on bringing back 'some dignity to truckers' lives'. The piece, which highlights our TTUK campaign and our collaboration with Unite, focuses on the attitude of some companies towards toilet access. It includes, as an example, the experience of a driver at one particular company where toilet access was stopped '*for security and hygiene reasons*'.



David Davies MP: Our Ed thanked Mr Davies for his letter in which he said he was unable to support our Campaign because of his Welsh commitments. She expressed her disappointment on behalf of TTUK and told him of her contribution to the Welsh Health & Social Care committee on the subject of public toilet closures. She asked if he could suggest any colleagues who might be interested in helping us improve the health and hygiene opportunities for lorry drivers – and ultimately other mobile workers who are experiencing similar difficulties. No further communication has been received



Norman Baker MP: In complete contrast our Ed was very pleased to learn that Mr Baker had added his name to a petition in support of reopening public toilets in Lewes. Whilst it does not directly affect lorry drivers it is reassuring to know that at least one MP takes the issue of toilets seriously and hopefully it will help other mobile workers as well as visitors and local residents.



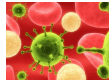
The 'Bucket System': *The bucket toilet system is unhygienic and should be completely done away with. We would all agree with this, wouldn't we? But too many drivers are forced into using this 'system' because of the lack of toilet facilities available to them. However this quote was reported in The Nambian [15 July] and came from Parliamentarian Lucia Witbooi who was discussing Namibia's public services in the National Assembly. To our country's shame it has nothing to do with our MPs and nor has it anything to do with the problems experienced by our own UK lorry drivers.*



Antibiotic crisis: The Daily Telegraph [25 July] reported that 'Antibacterial drug resistance has become a "world health crisis"'. Whilst this article is focusing on funding for antibiotic research it does bring antibiotic resistance to our attention. Ensuring facilities for toilet and hand washing needs will surely contribute towards combating infections.



'Back with a Vengeance!' Both *The Daily Telegraph* [24 July] and *The Mail on Sunday* [27 July] carry articles on the return of some Victorian diseases including Cholera which arose because of the poor sewerage systems at the time. During the floods earlier this year, there were reports that waste was found in the flood waters adding to health concerns and the need to keep clean. With further heavy rains in some parts of the UK the problem has not gone away. Hand washing at least should be part of our lives and yet drivers around the country who are constantly handling goods do not have proper facilities. This is unacceptable! This is what the TTUK campaign is about.



Hot or cold?: An article in *Green Building* [Summer 2014] by Cath Hassell discusses whether washing hands in warm water is actually necessary. Apparently research indicates that there is no difference between using hot or cold water; it is the time taken to wash with soap and the hand actions deployed that are important. As well as cost savings on heating water, research has found that warm water can even be less hygienic. It's an interesting idea that perhaps should be given further consideration. What do you think?



Toilet rolls & other products: In a very entertaining style, Glenn Parkes in the *Stoke Sentinel* [8 August], reminds us that when VAT was introduced in the UK in 1973 to replace 'purchase tax' we were given to understand that it would only affect 'luxury' items. Well, it turns out that toilet rolls carry VAT. From the Ed's own research it seems that sanitary products, incontinence pads, panty liners also carry VAT although some items may be at a reduced rate. However nappies and nappy liners are VAT free because they are considered articles of clothing! Is toilet paper *really* a luxury item nowadays?



Ladies in Waiting: Our TTUK Facebook followers will have seen the card and T shirt carrying the Ladies in Waiting logo* [women + child queuing outside a loo] by designer Tom Karen, an exhibitor at the RA. A bag is being considered. Queuing for the loo is one of the issues women face when out and about and could be a focus for a dedicated campaign on women and toilets. Female drivers certainly experience difficulties trying to access toilets. Do contact Gillian [details below] with any comments / thoughts on the subject. (*not shown here)



Updates

The Urgent Run: Sunday 16 November. The UK's contribution to World Toilet Day. Want to run or get involved? Contact Rachel Erickson rachel.ida.erickson@gmail.com

The Monkey Closet: The website www.themonkeycloset.com is up and running again after a 'blip'. If you have any sanitation and hygiene information you wish to share do contact the The Monkey Closet team via the website.

The Bladder and Bowel Foundation www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org has launched their first every Facebook page! Do visit and like! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bladder-and-Bowel-Foundation/522328084544148>

Don't forget to join in our Truckers Toilets UK campaign on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Truckers-Toilets-UK/520313554691335>



Next issue of the **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be September

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association www.britloos.co.uk