



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

June 2014

NEWSLETTER 12

Welcome to our TWELFTH newsletter! How time flies! We are delighted to report that since the first newsletter last July, we have made steady progress in our Campaign to provide drivers with access to clean, well maintained toilets, hand washing and – where appropriate – shower facilities. We have focused on **EVIDENCE** and **SPREADING THE WORD** to a wide range of individuals and organisations and we have received a lot of **SUPPORT**. There is much more to do but we've made an excellent start and we hope that *ALL* lorry drivers will be encouraged by their contributions to the campaign. We are now on a roll and are planning the next stage! Do stick with us!



Unite the Union update: There was a meeting in London this month between TTUK and Unite to discuss the next stage of working together on the Campaign. This will include Company involvement. Updates will be posted on the TTUK Facebook page. And Drivers, please keep posting your evidence – your experiences are vital to the success of the Campaign.



Commercial Driver: Letter of the Week [May] was from a driver who had been refused access to a toilet at Panalpina. As a result TTUK and Unite the Union were both interviewed on the subject [12 June page 8]. There is also a response to the Letter of the Week from Tony Lewington, Chair of the Health & Safety Committee, Unite. The reporter, Chris Tindall, has asked to be updated on Campaign developments!



CV Driver: There was more on accessing toilets and the lack of facilities generally for drivers in 'Rankine's Rants' [CV Driver April/Easter 2014]. He suggests he has 'a mind to start taking my camera with me and documenting the state of these places'. Go for it, Mr Rankine and send your photos to Truckers' Toilets UK!



Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry

TTUK was very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the TTUK Campaign with the Chief Executive of the HCCI and the Membership Services Officer. The HCCI supports what TTUK is trying to achieve and they are looking into possible ways forward such as arranging contacts with some of the larger employers in the area.



Press release: Following on from the Hand Hygiene conference where our Ed gave a presentation, SCA Hygiene Products UK Ltd www.sca.com sent out a press release promoting the Truckers' Toilets UK campaign headed 'Bid to provide UK lorry drivers with improved toilet access'. The content included toilet access refusals, few toilet facilities available on the roads, the lack of suitable parking for large vehicles and health issues. A big thank you to SCA for recognising the importance of this Campaign



Deb Ltd www.debgroup.com/uk : Another company that attended the Hand Hygiene conference is also interested in exploring ways of supporting our Campaign. TTUK will be mentioned at one of their team meetings. Look out for any feedback on our TTUK Facebook page.



Toilet Taboo! An article in the *Daily Telegraph* [19 May] commented on the fact that whilst celebrities are happy to be seen at functions for high profile charities the needs of other not so well known causes do not receive such support. Our Ed thinks A listers might not be so keen to associate themselves with UK toilet related campaigns - But never say 'never'!



Hand hygiene: The June issue of *Which?* Magazine advocates washing hands thoroughly with soap and water as does a professor who spoke at the Cheltenham Science Festival [*Daily Telegraph* 5 June]. If it is so important why then aren't hand washing facilities made available to lorry drivers for their own safety as well as ours? After all they are handling our goods!



Press down taps: Talking about hand hygiene, why do so many places have press down taps? It might save water, but it certainly doesn't allow thorough hand washing and generally there is no plug. No sooner have you put your hands into the water then the flow ceases. Isn't it possible for the timer to be set for a reasonable time to allow thorough hand washing?



Bus conductors in Thailand: According to an article in *Standard Digital* [9 June] bus conductors in Thailand are not allowed toilet breaks at all and have to wear nappies during their 16 hours shift! This has led to infections because of the length of time the nappies have to be worn – and apparently it has also caused cancer of the uterus in one conductor! Their Union is now demanding more toilets along the routes and at bus terminals.



Sensors at Heathrow: The toilets at the new Terminal 2 at Heathrow have been fitted with sensors that count the users [*BBC News* 7 June]. The technology allows staff to see which toilets are used most often and therefore need more cleaning. It can also indicate which loos are available and in the long term data can suggest whether fewer or more toilets are needed. [*Ed would be interested to hear comments from our readers of their experience at these new facilities*]



Women's issues: There is a petition at Change.org asking George Osborne to remove the VAT from sanitary products. Do seek it out and sign it if you have a moment. It's called *Stop taxing periods. Period*



THE MONKEY CLOSET www.themonkeycloset.com website is now available! The launch on Friday 13th June, heralded the beginning of an ever expanding resource for all sorts of topics related to sanitation and hygiene. Comments to date have been very positive. Do take time to visit the site but make sure you return again and again to ensure you keep up to date with the wide range of information as the site continues to grow.



Don't forget to visit our Truckers Toilets UK Facebook page and contribute to the campaign <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Truckers-Toilets-UK/520313554691335>



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

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association www.britloos.co.uk