



## TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

### NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER 2-4

**World Toilet Day:** November 19<sup>th</sup> on Twitter was just full of toilet talk from around the world. Gill ensured that UK lorry drivers – and other mobile workers – had several mentions as well!



**Twitter:** Gill's daily tweets [@toileteer] relate to toilet provision for lorry drivers as well as comments on public toilet issues. Followers are increasing, the word is spreading and there's a lot of information out there to learn from



**Driver Shortages:** [Daily Mail 13 Nov] ran an article on the lorry driver shortage due to new training rules. Gill wrote to many of those mentioned in the piece to point out that the lack of toilet provision was an additional factor. A positive response has already been received from IMRG which represents online retailers. The head of e-logistics supports our campaign and has made some very helpful suggestions



**Joe Lycett:** The comedian has written to Mark Carne at Network Rail describing the problem he had finding 30p when he urgently needed the loo at Euston Station after eating a curry!!! TTUK wonders if Mr Carne will reply



**Toilets in terminals:** In contrast to Joe Lycett's experience, a Bill penalising bus companies that charge passengers to use the toilets in their terminals [sic] and rest areas has been passed by The House of Representatives – in Manila [31 Oct Manila Standard Today]. The author of the Bill, Maximo Dalog, is quoted as saying '*While the State recognizes the right of every establishment to a fair return of investment, it mandates a corresponding social responsibility upon them to provide adequate facilities for the comfort of its clients*'. [Ed: Shouldn't the UK also consider its social responsibility?]



**Monica Makes Sense:** An article by this columnist in the *Boston Standard* [16 Nov] quotes the British Toilet Association's estimate of a 40% reduction in public toilets across the UK and also mentions the development of a UK Toilet Map in which the BTA is involved.



**Importance of water:** [Truck & Driver April 2014]: The Letter of the Month describes a female driver drinking as little as possible because toilets in her area are either non-existent or vile. This is causing her headaches and could ultimately damage her kidneys. She is not alone. TTUK is doing its best but needs others to help get toilet provision made a statutory requirement for lorry drivers – and ultimately all mobile workers – to protect their health!



**Cab drivers:** An article in the New York Post [30 Oct] describes a study which found that cabbies who work 12 hour shifts risk '*extensive genital and urinary pathology*' because they don't take enough loo breaks. Like lorry drivers and other mobile workers, they don't drink enough and they 'hold on'. The study found that taxi drivers are '*at a much higher risk of developing infertility, kidney stones, bladder cancer and urinary-tract infections; when compared with the general public*'. This is serious and also happens in the UK but it would appear to be not serious enough for action to be taken!



**Hand Hygiene:** Do YOU wash your hands for 20 seconds or more? The concept that anti-septic soaps are beneficial in preventing infection is misplaced suggests Chris Packham of [www.enviroderm.co.uk](http://www.enviroderm.co.uk). He argues that in order for them to be effective almost all anti-septic soaps need a contact time of at least one minute! Apparently in the USA the FDA is sufficiently concerned about the excessive use of these products that they are running a campaign to limit their use



**Public toilet threat:** ALL of the Isle of Wight public toilets are under threat of closure! Needless to say Gill [who hails from the Island] has written to the Isle of Wight County Press expressing her views on the subject. The Island is dependent on tourism for goodness' sake!



**Toilet Tax:** BBC News [6 Nov] described how staff at a call centre are given water because of the nature of their work but are 'fined' for visiting the toilet. One employee, a constituent of Madeleine Moon MP found money had been deducted from his pay for 'toilet visits'. Ms Moon raised the matter in the House of Commons and asked for a debate on the issue. William Hague replied that '*if it was a widespread issue or problem there might well be demand for this in the House*'. However he hoped that Ms Moon would be able to resolve the issue without having a debate.



**Legal Right?:** In the same article [toilet tax] the TUC '*recently noted that workers do not have a legal right to go to the toilet during working hours without losing pay*'. They have called for the law to be changed. The TUC also said there is a need for '*a specific legal right to use toilets in the employer's time [as opposed to the employee's time] without a deduction in pay, and without any harassment*'. [Ed's comment: What century are we in?]



**Parking:** A Department of Transport document: '*A Strategy for Parking Provision in England*' [undated but c2009] states the need for more awareness of lorry park facilities. The 01/2008 '*Policy on Service Areas and Road Side Facilities on Motorways and All-purpose Trunk Roads in England*' has yet to be explored by our Ed. [Does anyone know to what extent the policies have been implemented so far?]



**HSG 136:** *A guide to Workforce Transport Safety*: TTUK is very pleased to learn that one of our supporters [*Michelle Barkley*] has included a statement in her company's [architecture, design & planning] practice newsletter saying that toilet and refreshment facilities for drivers are now required by official guidance and should be included in all schemes. She is also going to raise this subject at a meeting where there will be representatives from many other shopping centre architects groups. [Ed: Thank you very much].



**Public toilets:** The document '*Shaping neighbourhoods - Accessible London: achieving an Inclusive environment. Supplementary planning guidance*' includes public toilets as something to be provided and monitored in town centres. It also refers to providing toilets in other areas, such as playgrounds. In addition there is guidance on providing toilets for assistance dogs! [Ed: thanks again to Michelle for this information]



**Unite:** No report received on the ratings survey but Gill has been invited to speak at a Logistics Forum meeting in February.



### Blue Arrow:



Gill has received a draft document from Blue Arrow which introduces the Blue Arrow / TTUK partnership campaign that aims to improve access to clean toilets for lorry drivers. Very good news!

**Cleaning:** [*The Cleanzine 13 Nov*] An article in Cleanzine highlights the point that cleaners have 2 important jobs: [1] cleaning for appearance which influences people's perceptions and [2] cleaning for health which has an impact on overall public health by helping to reduce the spread of disease. [Ed: This highlights that it's not just a question of being able to access a toilet; it's being able to access a clean toilet]



**Why clean toilets matter** [*ConstructionWeekOnline.Com 19 October*]. Research shows that the state of the toilets reflects how an organisation is perceived.



Unpleasant toilets indicate that users are not considered important and can seriously affect business as a result. [Ed: two similar thoughts from different magazines!]

**Women's issues:** According to research [*Cleanzine 13 Nov*] door handles pose the least risk for germs but the sanitary disposal bins have the highest concentration of germs! This is worrying when you consider how often sitting on the toilet includes partially sitting on the bin because so many women's cubicles are too narrow to do otherwise



**The Great British Public Toilet Map** was LAUNCHED on World Toilet Day! [www.greatbritishpublictoiletmap.rca.ac.uk](http://www.greatbritishpublictoiletmap.rca.ac.uk)  
Congratulations to Jo-Anne Bichard, Gail Ramester and the team at the Helen Hamlyn Centre

**The Loo Lady:** We say a BIG thank you to Rachel Erickson, the Loo Lady, for not only boosting an interest in toilets generally through her Loo Tours, TV appearances and Radio interviews but also for her support to Truckers' Toilets UK. She now has to return to the US but we will certainly be keeping in touch. Loo Tours will still be available as an Audio Tour. Do give it a whirl. [www.lootours.com](http://www.lootours.com)

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 December

*Gillian Kemp*

The British Toilet Association [www.britloos.co.uk](http://www.britloos.co.uk)