



Mr P Smith  
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29<sup>th</sup> November 2002

Dear Mr. Smith,

**RE: Request to the Regulatory Committee - UNISON Second Seconded Post**

The Branch Executive and local authority members of the Wiltshire County Branch of UNISON, request that the funding allocated to support the post of the second seconded branch officer (currently held by Russ Brook) currently funded until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 be extended.

Russ was seconded to UNISON in November 2001 to assist with the projected reorganization within the Local Authority, specifically Care Trusts.

As you are aware reorganizations, restructuring and the integration of departments are still ongoing. The projected date for Care Trusts to go live has now been deferred for one year until April 2004.

At present Wiltshire County Branch has approximately 1700 staff members in UNISON. Russ is involved with advising and representing members on both individual and collective issues. Some of the projects in which Russ is currently involved are:

- The projected closure of the 5 middle schools in the Salisbury and South Wiltshire area
- The Children, Families and Learning project
- Future of the Learning Disabilities Service
- The integration of Local Authority staff into PCT's and ultimately Care Trusts

Russ has attended PFI and Care Trust Seminars, as well as completing his TUC Union Representatives Stage 1 & 2 courses. He is scheduled to attend a negotiators course during December 2002.

The work Russ is undertaking is invaluable to WCC staff members, not only on individual issues but also collectively on the massive changes that are taking place within the authority. I would hope that the consultation meetings Russ attends on behalf of members are also seen to be a great benefit to Wiltshire County Council and its officers by raising issues and resolving them effectively.

Yours sincerely

Philip Cooke  
Branch Vice-Chairperson

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Branch Secretary Janet Dapson