

STAFF UNION BULLETIN
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14 January 2005

ELECTION TO THE STAFF UNION COMMITTEE 2004-2006

Note by the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission met on 10 January 2005 at the request of the Staff Union Committee. The chief returning officer and the General-Secretary of the Union outlined some anomalies which had arisen in respect of the latest election, such as: a delay in the receipt of ballot papers hindering the possibility of some members to vote in time; no ballot papers received by some members at headquarters and, in particular; a vast differential between the rate of participation from headquarters and that from the field (implausibly low at headquarters) making it impossible to certify the exact number of ballot papers received from headquarters and from the field.

The Electoral Commission discussed the possible reasons for such anomalies (error in the stamping of ballots for headquarters and for the field, lost ballot papers, etc.) and concluded that they were not of a kind to invalidate the elections. The Commission was of the opinion that there was no reason to suspect any fraud or attempt at fraud and that, regardless of these anomalies, there were no grounds to call into question the election of any of the eight candidates to the eight available posts.

The Commission, however, requested the publication of this Bulletin out of a concern for transparency and to reply to queries that any members may have had concerning the fact that, this year, the traditional indication of the number and percentage of votes coming from members at headquarters and those coming from the field were not published.

The Commission also asked the chief returning officer and the General-Secretary to study various alternatives for the next elections that would avoid the repetition of these anomalies (for example, the use of double envelopes or electronic voting) and to submit as soon as possible to the Commission any proposals for their implementation.

The Electoral Commission will keep members informed of any decisions concerning the manner in which the next Staff Union Committee elections shall be conducted.
