



Lifting of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in Wales regarding Shared Vans, Face Coverings and Social Distancing

This follows the communication issued on 23 July and the RMG/CWU Joint Statement dated 20 July.

Wales

The position in Wales has now been confirmed by the Welsh First Minister as follows, effective from 7 August 2021:

- In line with the approach used in England and Scotland, the legal lockdown restrictions regarding social distancing have been lifted enabling a return to permitted shared vans in RMG Wales.
- Therefore, fully in line with the terms of the RMG/CWU Joint Statement of 20 July, Royal Mail Group and the CWU will adopt a gradual approach to the return to shared vans and LGVs. Managers, in full consultation with CWU Area and Workplace Safety Reps, Delivery Reps and Distribution Reps, are required to ensure safe working instructions are applied and further infections minimised. Both managers and CWU Reps should commence discussions on Wednesday 11 August, based on the Joint Statement with a gradual re-introduction of shared vans and LGVs, dealing with any practical, operational and safety issues as well as recognising any individual circumstances. Special consideration should be given to any Covid-19 high impact offices.
- Face coverings remain mandatory in Royal Mail Group in Wales.

Northern Ireland

- Social distancing restrictions remain in place in Royal Mail Group in Northern Ireland.
- Face coverings remain mandatory in Royal Mail Group in Northern Ireland.
- There **will not** be a return to shared vans in Royal Mail Group in Northern Ireland currently and we await further updates from the Northern Ireland administration.
- Royal Mail Group in consultation with the CWU and Unite/CMA will review this again on 12 August 2021 in line with the next Northern Ireland Government review.

As a result of the lifting of social distancing legal restrictions in England, Scotland and Wales, Royal Mail, CWU and Unite/CMA will continue to work together to consider the impact on the wider operational tasks that are currently restricted.

By way of a reminder:

Further Royal Mail Group, CWU and Unite/CMA joint communications will follow once England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland make further announcements on Covid-secure controls.

- Royal Mail Group will continue to reflect Government (central and devolved nations) and their agencies advice and guidance.
- Royal Mail Group will support Government messaging through internal communications and engagement strategy.
- Royal Mail Group risk management and risk assessment procedures will be jointly reviewed and be regularly monitored with full CWU and Unite/CMA ASR/WSR involvement and engagement across all units.
- Royal Mail Group will retain contingency measures. Infection rate data will be monitored and Shared Vans/LGVs may be removed and other controls put in place should the infection



rate rise to a level considered to require that course of action (if assessed to be a necessary infection control measure either locally or nationally).

- Royal Mail Group strategy will be to continue to review World Health Organisation (WHO) Covid-19 guidance.

The National Joint Statement of 20 July should be read in conjunction with the previous CWU Joint Statements and joint communications (plus attachments) on returning to Van Sharing, issued on 11 and 17 June 2021 and the joint commitments to Health & Safety, approach to individuals, along with the operational issues contained within these national documents which must be fully applied in all workplaces.

Royal Mail Group, CWU and Unite/CMA will continue to meet regularly at national level and review the measures outlined above in order to monitor infection rates, and any local trends and increases in the spread of the virus, along with resolving any operational or individual issues that are raised by either party.