



31st July 2020

## National Ballot 2020 – The Reason we must take Action

*Dear Colleague,*

By now you would have heard that Connect Trade Union is balloting **ALL** our members that work in the Construction – Mechanical – Electrical Contracting sectors (including apprentices) for protective Industrial Action to defend your terms & conditions of employment.

The need to conduct such a ballot arises from a challenge a group of employers took against the Sectoral Employment Orders which gave legal protections to your rates of pay and Pension benefits. These employers succeeded in convincing the High Court that these orders were unconstitutional and from the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Connect Trade Union once again took responsibility for protecting your terms & conditions of employment in whatever way we can. While some employers have committed to honouring your terms & conditions there are always “Rogue Employers” who will attack you and your livelihood. These must be stopped now. That is why we are calling for our members to send a clear message to all employers that Connect Trade Union members will be standing together and take industrial action to protect Union workers whenever and wherever they are under attack.

Consider this;

- If your employer tries to cut your rates of pay or is not currently paying you the agreed National Rates of Pay **VOTE FOR ACTION**
- If your employer stops paying your CWPS Pension/Sick/Death in Service Benefit payments or is not currently making the payment **VOTE FOR ACTION**
- If your employer stops paying your travel time/country money or is not currently making the payment **VOTE FOR ACTION**
- If your employer has workers employed on Bogus Self-Employed Contracts **VOTE FOR ACTION**
- If your employer is putting your job at risk by using Subbies/Agencies who do not pay the Nationally agreed terms & conditions **VOTE FOR ACTION**
- If your employer is putting your job at risk by using Non-Union, Unskilled labour for Craft work or is failing to register apprentices within the statutory 2-week period **VOTE FOR ACTION**.

**The time for action has come.** You cannot afford to sit back and leave this fight to others. So, you are now requested by your Union to read the enclosed ballot paper and exercise your democratic duty by voting. You should then return your completed ballot paper in the Freepost envelope to be received by the Union no later than close of business on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

Finally, you should discuss this with all your colleagues on site. Not everyone is on site is a Union brother or sister and by remaining non-union they put everyone at risk. Encourage them to join/re-join the union and take part in the National Ballot 2020. If they are willing to take the benefits brought about by Union workers, they must also be prepared to stand with Union workers to protect them.

Workers can re-join by logging on to <https://www.connectunion.ie/membership/> or by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone;

Regards,

Brian Nolan  
*Assistant General Secretary*  
*Connect Trade Union*

