



For GMB Members in ASDA STORES

GMB – WORKING FOR YOU IN ASDA

October 2008 - 31



Christmas Uniforms



Dear ASDA Members

At the recent National Forum the GMB Representatives raised serious concerns about employees who wished to wear the red Christmas uniform being required to purchase these outfits. Corporate policy is now also apparently that the older style Christmas uniforms, even where they are in good conditions, now cannot be worn. This is seemingly down to ASDA's desire to have a consistent Christmas brand.

It seems wrong to the GMB that a highly profitable business like ASDA should be asking employees to purchase a Christmas uniform. It is not lost on the Union that, whilst individual employees may benefit through the pension saver proposals, ASDA look as if they will save something like half a million pounds a year. Surely this money could have been used to provide Christmas uniforms to those who wish to wear it?

By our calculations an employee working on a 12 hour contract could pay upwards of £18.57 for a Christmas uniform, which can then only be worn for a few weeks.

The cost of the Christmas uniforms is clearly going to dissuade many colleagues from purchasing one, so leading to a two tier situation whereby many ASDA workers simply cannot afford to purchase the Christmas uniform.

Interestingly, it also seems that there is a discrepancy between the cost of the red Christmas uniforms, which will be borne by individuals, and the green standard uniforms supplied by ASDA. Our understanding is that the green standard uniforms are significantly cheaper. We hope that the Company is not making a profit from workers buying the Christmas uniforms.

GMB is awaiting feedback from ASDA on the whole issue of Christmas uniforms

Members will be advised accordingly.

GARY SMITH
NATIONAL SECRETARY
YOUR VOICE IN ASDA
GMB COMMERCIAL SERVICES SECTION