



# For GMB Members in **ASDA STORES**

**GMB – WORKING FOR YOU IN ASDA**

**OCTOBER 2009 - 57**

## **BOXING DAY**

Dear ASDA Members

At the National Forum GMB has again raised the issue of the Boxing Day Bank Holiday. The Union have told the Company that their proposals are ill-thought through and have caused widespread anger. We queried the rationale for the announcement on the designation of the Bank Holiday. The Union's view is that it represents cost cutting at a time when the Company is making record profits.

The Union Stewards on the National Forum raised a number of issues around Boxing Day working, including the lack of consultation; individuals' desire to spend time with their family; availability of childcare and transport on Boxing Day. The GMB representatives pointed out that even if there is childcare available the costs will be extortionate. The same was said of transport on Boxing Day. As was pointed out, Stores employees could be out of pocket for attending work.

The Union Side also highlighted the fact that Distribution were dealing with the issue of Boxing Day working differently from Stores. In the view of the GMB Representatives, this lack of consistency, where Stores staff are the poor relations, is wrong.

The Company denied that the Boxing Day Bank Holiday issue represented cost cutting. The Management Side advised that the designation of the Bank Holiday was to ensure the Company had adequate numbers of employees in Stores to run the business. However, the Company provided no evidence that they had difficulties in securing volunteers to cover Boxing Day opening.

Management have advised that they would revisit the issue of Boxing Day. GMB has requested urgent feedback, as we need to decide how best to take forward grievances on this issue.

Members will be kept advised of developments. The campaign work so far has forced ASDA to at least listen.

**GARY SMITH  
NATIONAL SECRETARY**

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