



# GMB Congress 2016

## Delegates briefing

May 2016

### Welcome to the 99<sup>th</sup> GMB Congress Introduction

This briefing is being circulated to delegates in advance of Congress in order to help prepare for the event. If you have any queries concerning Congress you should, in the first instance, contact your Regional Office.

### Venue

Congress is being held in the **BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (BIC)** Exeter Road, Bournemouth BH2 5BH

### Essential credential

The most important item you will receive in advance of Congress is your delegate's credential. You will not gain access to the Congress venue without this.

Your credential must be worn and clearly visible at all times whilst you are within the Congress venue. Should you lose your credential during Congress please go to your delegation leader or the Information Desk who will make arrangements for a replacement.

Please note bags must not be left in the hall during the lunch breaks or overnight. Cloakroom facilities will be available in the Congress venue all week and can be used to store luggage on Thursday for anyone leaving immediately at the end of Congress.

### Essential Reading

The following are the most useful documents:

**General Secretary's Report:** this contains details of the work undertaken by Regions, Sections and National Office Departments over the past year. This year it also contains progress reports from the Women's Taskforce and the Branch Review Working Party. The Report is put

to Congress for approval by the General Secretary.

**Final Agenda & Congress Guide:** this includes:

- Congress Motions/ CEC Rule Amendments
- Section Conference Motions
- SOC guidelines for Congress business, including time limits for speakers.
- Standing Orders Committee Report No. 1
- Representation Statements for Congress
- Composite motions
- Fringe Meetings, Exhibitions and Seating Plan

Copies of Emergency Motions will be issued to delegates in advance of their debate.

### Delegate Outline Programme:

This gives you an overview of the order of business for the week, though changes may be necessary from time to time as congress business progresses.

Where changes are expected, the President will try to give delegates advance warning. You will also be issued with more detailed Session Programme at the start of each session showing the order of debates.

**Income & Expenditure Report:** These are the Annual accounts and will be moved on Wednesday afternoon.

**Congress Explained:** This is an introduction to terminology and the processes and procedures of GMB Congress and is an essential guide for a first time delegate. You should have been given a copy at your first regional delegation meeting. There are copies on the Info Desk

### Wallets

Delegates' wallets/ rucksacks will be made available at your regional delegation meeting on Saturday. The wallets will include the Final Agenda & Congress Guide, your Congress badge and other useful information such as winners of Congress Awards and the Delegate Questionnaire.

### Programme of business

The full draft programme of business has been drawn up following regional delegation meetings and regional agreement of composite motions. Even then the timings for debates will depend on how many additional speakers the President decides to take and congress delegates keeping to speaking times and being ready to speak when called.

Here is a provisional outline of the programme which is subject to change:

**Sunday morning: 9:30-12:30**

Video of key events of the year, ceremonial procession of the National and Regional Banners, President's Address, Union Organisation, health and safety motions and Daniel Dennis Award for health & safety reps, equalities, presentation of Presidents Leadership Awards.

**Fringe Events take place at lunch times on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 12:45 and 1:45. Please refer to the Final Agenda & Congress Guide for more information**

**Sunday Afternoon: 2pm- 5:30pm**

Motions on Equality, International, Welfare Rights & Services and Housing. Session on GMB success in Blacklisting campaign. Address by Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party

**Monday morning: 9.30am- 12.30pm**

Political motions. Presentation of the first Eleanor Marx Award by Rachel Holmes. Launch of GMB Parliamentary Programme and panel of Women MPs with Q&A. Motions on Union Organisation. General Secretary's Address and moving the General Secretary's Report.

**Monday afternoon: 2.00pm -5.30pm**

CEC Special Report on GMB Education and Training and motions on education & training. Motions on Rights at Work and Recruitment & Organisation. Second session on GMB national and regional successes.

**Congress business will be suspended and delegates will attend your Section Conferences on Tuesday from 9:30 – 5:30**

<b>Public Services:</b>	Windsor Hall
<b>Commercial Services:</b>	Tregonwell Hall
<b>Manufacturing &amp; Fine Manufacturing:</b>	Purbeck Lounge

**Wednesday morning: 9.30am- 12.30pm**

Fraternal greeting from **Steve Gillan** (POA), Motions on the Economy and taxation. Motions on justice, address by **Margaret Aspinall** of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, Report from Public Services Section Conference, motions on education, schools and health and the Congress local Gift. Motions on disability and mental health and an address by **Luciana Berger MP**. CEC Statement and motions on the Trade Union Act

**Wednesday afternoon: 2pm- 5:30pm**

Address by Ian Smith, Four Seasons Healthcare followed by the CEC Special Report on Social Care. Motions on pensions, finance & contributions, Annual accounts and Finance Report. Motions on GMB Representation and Accountability. Report from Manufacturing Section Conference and motions on Trident. Open discussion on the format of future Congresses.

**Thursday morning: 9:30 – close**

Energy, report from Commercial Services Section Conference, public ownership & control, transport, environment, rights at work, justice, racism, immigration. Address by **Glenis Willmot MEP**, CEC Statement on the EU Referendum, social policy general motions. Any outstanding business. Closing Congress ceremony.

**GMB Congress is a national media event and by agreeing to attend you also agree to be filmed, photographed and recorded.**

Every GMB Congress session is filmed and broadcast live from the GMB website on Congress TV so that all GMB members who are unable to attend Congress can watch live feeds.

**Please refrain from using inappropriate language and read the Union's Zero Tolerance Policy.**

During GMB Congress Week, Congress TV can be accessed from the GMB Home Page [www.gmb.org.uk](http://www.gmb.org.uk)

If you have a noteworthy story or issue for the media, please discuss this with the Press Office who are based in the Congress venue or contact them by email: [press.office@gmb.org.uk](mailto:press.office@gmb.org.uk) or call Joe **07970 863411** or Andrew **07739 182691**

## Zero Tolerance

Congress 2014 adopted a Zero Tolerance Statement which relates to the behaviour, conduct and language used at all GMB meetings and events. A copy can be found on Page 3 of the Final Agenda

## Facilities for delegates

Regions have been asked to notify National Office of any access requirements or special facilities for delegates when supplying delegate names.

The platform and all other areas used by delegates are wheelchair accessible.

Other access requirements that have already been notified, such as provision of documents in special formats, will be met.

There have not been any requests for sign language interpretation and so this service will not be provided this year.

## Refreshments

Whilst Congress has a break for lunch, there are no set tea breaks during Congress morning/afternoon sessions. However, there is a refreshment outlet within the exhibition hall where tea and coffee is provided free of charge to all Congress credential holders throughout the day. Where possible all refreshments will be FairTrade/ ethically sourced.

## Equality Monitoring forms

As part of the GMB's commitment to equality auditing, we seek to achieve an accurate statistical breakdown of the composition of Congress delegations by gender, race, disability and sexual orientation. The aim is to show the extent to which any group is under-represented and thereby make progress towards ensuring that Congress becomes more fully representative of GMB membership. Please complete the monitoring form in your wallet and hand this to your Regional delegation leader to summarise and report to the Congress Office.

## Delegates Questionnaire

We value your comments and your evaluation of your Congress experience, without evaluation monitoring we cannot measure how well we have organised Congress. This is very useful information for the planning and organising of future Congresses. By submitting your evaluation form you are also in with a chance of winning a prize!

## Information Desk

This is located in the foyer at the main entrance to the Congress venue, and is staffed by GMB National Office personnel who will assist with enquiries. The desk also holds useful telephone numbers and addresses for local amenities e.g. doctor, dentists, taxi's etc

## Stewards

Stewards will be available to direct delegates and any Congress attendee without a credential will be directed to the information desk where the staff will make the necessary arrangements to issue a credential.

## Exhibition

The Congress exhibition area in the Solent Hall enables delegates to find out more about the range of campaigning, social, and political organisations involved with the GMB. There are also stands for those providing services, information and guidance to GMB members including UnionLine. You will find a map and information in the Final Agenda and Congress Guide.

**UNIONLINE**  
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM  
0300 333 0303  
www.unionline.co.uk

**UnionLine  
Stand 10**

## Electronic Congress

There is section of the GMB website dedicated to Congress ([www.gmb.org.uk/congress](http://www.gmb.org.uk/congress)). You can find versions of some of the Congress documents. At Congress there will be an internet cafe on stand **38** in the Exhibition area which is free of charge to credential holders.

## Congress 2015 Motions

There is a report on the progress of all Motions carried by last year's Congress in the Congress 2015 Members area of the GMB National website or you can email [policy@gmb.org.uk](mailto:policy@gmb.org.uk) for information

## Social

### President's Night: Sunday 5 June

All credential holders are invited to the President's Night which will be held on Sunday in the **Bournemouth Pavilion, Westover Road commencing at 8pm**. Please note that this is a drinks only event, with a live band. You will need to show your Congress Credential for admittance and to obtain your free drinks vouchers.

## Accommodation

If you have any issues with your Congress accommodation, please speak to your regional delegation leader.

## Tourist Information

Information on the local area can be found at the **Bournemouth Tourist Information Centre** located near the venue at Pier Approach, Bournemouth, BH2 5AA or by Tel: 01202 451734 or email [info@bournemouth.gov.uk](mailto:info@bournemouth.gov.uk)

