

Paid publications worker

This motion was agreed at the February 2020 rs21 national members' meeting

I believe it would be a real setback to rs21 to suspend the Publications Worker role. We have an excellent incumbent in the role, who works well with our elected website team, and both the quality and quantity of the website's output has clearly improved. Once the current website team is broken up, it's not clear that we will be able to bring it back together at a future time, even if we decide to re-establish the role.

We also have an ambitious set of pamphlets in the works at the moment but all of these processes are suffering from a lack of capacity. Withdrawing the Publications Worker position would make it harder for these to be delivered, and would remove the person most able to take an overall view of the pamphlets as a series. It could be very damaging to once again go long periods of time with no new print publications.

Moreover, acquiring this position was one of the first clear steps rs21 has taken in recent years towards becoming more structured and consistent, and resolving its perennial lack-of-capacity issues. It took 19 months to implement the establishment of the role despite the mandate to do so being in place since February 2018, and it would be a frustrating reversal to return to Square One in this respect.

For this reason:

- I request that the National Meeting authorise the use of a recent £2,000 donation to rs21 to sustain the Publications Worker role on a short-term basis. The pace of the consumption of that sum of money can be agreed between the Steering Group and the Publications Worker.
- I volunteer to spearhead a fundraising drive in the coming months to raise our subs income by the end of March to the point that would make it possible to sustain the role on a reduced basis of 8-12 hours per week (which would mean raising income by at least £375 per month in total). I believe there is a real possibility of achieving this; I have already had conversations with several comrades who would be willing to start paying subs towards this end, or to increase their existing subs.
- The SG can make the final call, in discussion with the Treasurer, at the end of the period in which the £2,000 is used, on whether to sustain the role. If we cannot pay for the role on an ongoing basis it will not be sustained.