



To: Prospect | Bectu Branch Secretaries  
cc: National Executive Committee

16 December 2024

2024/01069

Dear Colleagues

**NEC guidance on attendance at demonstrations and the use of Prospect branded material**

In recent months the NEC has been approached to provide guidance to branches regarding attendance at demonstrations and the associated display of Union materials/banners and whether the event is endorsed by the Union

This guidance deals with the circumstances in which the Union is participating in official demonstrations/events and the exercise of the personal right to attend. These may cover workplace issues such as national or regional demonstrations regarding employment rights or disputes, or where we are aligned with other civil society, social or international issues of concern.

Prospect will usually support and publicise events that are organised by the TUC or STUC. TUC/STUC events offer the best means of ensuring that appropriate stewarding and safety measures have been considered and implemented. We will attend and carry the Union banner(s) and other promotional materials at such events.

Prospect will not endorse attendance at demonstrations or events directed at workplaces where the Union has an organised branch or similar.

Prospect does not formally participate in events organised by other bodies, unless we are directly affiliated, and the NEC judge it is appropriate to do so. This is because we cannot vouch for the event content, organisation and safety arrangements that would apply. We recognise that individuals may wish to attend in a personal capacity and that is a matter for them.

Where other organisations run events, we do not require members to obtain permission to carry Union materials as they are then attending in a personal capacity. It is not practical for the Union to consider the appropriateness of and endorse or refuse a presence at each event that members might attend. In these situations, members must exercise their judgement over the nature of the event, being mindful of the union's reputation, our main policies and the objects of the Union as described in our national rules. Moreover that they remain clear that they are attending in a personal as opposed to a union authorised capacity.

Where attendance at these events is in a personal capacity members or representatives must not represent themselves, either to the media or to the event's organisers, as a union representative or official. If an individual wishes to participate in media interviews at or related to these events they must not speak for or on behalf of their branch or the union.

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Any media requests for a Prospect/Bectu interview or statement must be raised with the relevant full-time officer, who will direct this to the union communications team.

Where members wish to order a flag or other material to carry at a non-TUC/STUC event, they should contact their full-time officer in good time so that materials can be ordered or prepared. At least two weeks' notice is usually necessary.

Yours sincerely

MIKE CLANCY

General Secretary