



UNITE @ Fujitsu

Appeal for Support

(December 2009)



Fight for Jobs, Pay & Pensions

UNITE members at Fujitsu Services are asking for your support.

The company is highly profitable (see overleaf), but is trying to take advantage of the recession to further increase its profits at the expense of staff.

Fujitsu was the first company for several years to propose the closure of its “final salary” pension scheme to existing members. Many other employers are now trying to follow suit. The closure would typically be equivalent to a pay cut of around 20% for the almost 4000 staff affected.

The company is taking a very aggressive approach to try to force through the change – it intends to dismiss the staff and re-engage them on new contracts with worse pensions.

We are campaigning to defend our pensions.

We are also campaigning against an unjustified pay freeze, announced shortly *after* the company had completed pay planning, and *after* it had reached a pay deal with UNITE for Manchester staff. The pay issue affects nearly all the company’s 12,000 UK staff.

The company put around 6000 of us “at risk” of redundancy, proposing to cut up to 1200 jobs.

Read on for more information about the campaign and how you can help.

Why Support Us?

Working people didn’t cause the current recession, yet we are being asked to pay the price for it.

If profitable companies like Fujitsu can get away with slashing jobs, pay and conditions, every other employer will feel more confident to follow suit.

If our campaign is successful, other employers will think twice about taking on their staff.

While our taxes are being spent on “fiscal stimulus”, greedy companies like Fujitsu are busy cutting the spending power of their staff, adding to the risk of recession turning into depression.

UNITE members at Fujitsu have a proud record of supporting other workers, backing campaigns from Visteon to Karen Reissmann, civil servants to postal workers, Lindsey to education, Linamar to Vestas.

The IT industry is largely un-unionised with many viciously anti-union employers. Fujitsu workers have been at the forefront of changing this. Manchester staff went on strike for 12 days in 2006-7, succeeding in defending and extending union recognition.

Campaign Plans

UNITE members in Fujitsu across the UK voted for strike action (74%) and action short of strike (92%) in an industrial action ballot which closed on 29th October.

Talks produced a company offer which members rejected by a majority of 83%.

UNITE has initially called action short of strike and initial strikes on 18th December, 7th January, 8th January, 11th January, 14th January and 15th January.

A “Scrooge” protest is planned at noon on Friday 18th December outside the company HQ at 22 Baker Street, London, W1U 3BW.

Who are Fujitsu?

Fujitsu is a giant Japan-based multinational. The main subsidiary in the UK is Fujitsu Services, with around 12,000 employees at well over 100 locations such as Bracknell, Stevenage, Manchester, Crewe, Belfast, Staines, Basingstoke, Wakefield, Sheffield, Solihull, Slough, Lewes, Warrington, Belfast, Londonderry, Cardiff, Bristol, Newcastle and London.

Fujitsu Services provides IT services (mainly outsourcing) to many government departments and major companies.

Companies like Fujitsu get billions of pounds of public money – why should they get away with treating people like this?

Greedy

1. Fujitsu Services' profits more than doubled last year to £177m (the highest ever), which equates to around £8000 per employee.
2. [According to Reuters](#), Fujitsu Ltd plans to spend over \$3bn spare cash to pay off debts this year.
3. Fujitsu Ltd paid a dividend of 24.46 billion Yen (approximately £154m) to shareholders last year. The pay rise would have cost about £15m. In October 2009 the company paid out about £42m as an "interim dividend" after announcing its half-year results.
4. The most recent available figures show two of our directors being paid £1.6m to leave the company.

How To Support Us

- Messages of support can be sent to support@ourunion.org.uk or to John Wood, 301 Bolton Road, Bury, BL8 2NZ.
- Make a donation towards the fund for our national campaign. A collection sheet can be downloaded from www.ourunion.org.uk. Cheques payable to "Manchester IT Workers Group" can be sent to John Wood, 301 Bolton Road, BURY, BL8 2NZ. If you use online banking, you can donate to Account Number: 00980539, Sort Code: 30-91-48, but please send an email to tell us about your donation, to support@ourunion.org.uk.
- Invite a speaker to one of your meetings. Get in touch via support@ourunion.org.uk.
- Messages of protest can be sent to Roger Gilbert, Chief Executive Officer, Fujitsu UK & Ireland, 22 Baker Street, London, W1U 3BW.
- Ask your MP to write a letter of protest - Fujitsu Services is one of the biggest IT suppliers to the UK government. Fujitsu even sponsors the parliamentary rugby team.
- Contact Fujitsu customers and potential customers and ask them to make a protest.
- Join in with our campaign events. Keep abreast of the campaign via www.ourunion.org.uk/news.

CONTACT DETAILS, MORE INFO ETC

There's a general web page about UNITE @ Fujitsu: www.unitetheunion.com/fujitsu.

For updates about the dispute, see www.ourunion.org.uk/news. Updated versions of this appeal leaflet will be posted on www.ourunion.org.uk.

Contact us via:

- UNITE the Union, c/o Fujitsu Services, Central Park, Northampton Road, Manchester M40 5BP.
- support@ourunion.org.uk