

Go National

Q) When did The Fed become aware of these proposed changes?

A) At the Annual Conference in June 2026, where it was announced by Jon Bunting.

Smiths News are a PLC and therefore could not advise sooner. We believe News UK advised InPost of this contract loss the afternoon before

Q) Since the announcement at Conference, what discussions have taken place with Smiths News?

A) As always, we have continued to hold regular discussions with Smiths News at all levels on many topics. In respect of National Distribution, we have seen further announcements from DMG (Mail) and Frontline and this only indicates support of just one supplier model that both Wholesalers said was required and subsequently tendered for.

Now the Summer is over and with no more contracts announcements expected we will be working with them on the detail.

The National President has also attended an initial factfinding meeting with Smiths News . This undertaking is ongoing to understand them understand their differences in theirs and InPost's operation - eg administration, jargon and online services

Q) What information has been obtained, and what information has actually been communicated to our members?

A) The email referenced and then shared at EX CO is this starting point and begins to explain where Smiths News are at and their broad intentions. We have agreed that Smiths News should now attend membership meetings events. They are also willing to undertake roundtables and open days as new become evident or existing depots are modified

Q) If Smiths News direct distribution is going to happen in 2027, what is the plan& do we have a detailed timetable?

A) This is not yet available, but it must be ready for July 1st, 2027. In conversations with Publishers, they have advised that they are holding regular meetings with Smiths News to prove that they are able to their contract expectations are fully met

Q) Are Smiths News ready?

A) At this stage the answer has to be a clear no, Smiths News have advised they are in a strong position and have a robust team, led by a newly appointed Operations Director to ensure this happens.

Q) Has The Fed seen their transition plan, and has the News Committee properly scrutinised and challenged it on behalf of our members?

A) Not at this stage, however we are aware however that New Depot locations or changes are being scrutinised by the Publishers in the first instance and we have asked to be included in the process before any irreversible sign off

Update this was presented to EX CO and now available to read.

Q) What discussions have taken place with InPost and have we established what will happen with their existing customers?

A) As you might imagine and at the outset, we felt it was very important to listen to InPost and be able to share their position with members through us and throughout the process. Unfortunately, their two senior representatives have chosen to not take up this opportunity despite being chased for responses.

InPost were not in a position to share any of their immediate , medium- or long-term plans and therefore we should expect then to continue with the contracts they are compelled to meet.

Q) What impact do we believe these changes will have?

A) Outside of DRS, this change will be the most significant one facing members in 2027, into 2028 and since News UK decided to directly supply retail inside of the M25

Q) Could any retailers find themselves facing two sets of delivery or carriage charges during or following the transition?

A) We do not expect this to happen and together with NTM (RN magazine) have gained verbal confirmations that this was the intention when the contract changes were announced and recently.

We can also advise that the Publishing fraternity do not want dual Carriage Charges either (eg no return to a second carriage charge as seen with News UK DTR or as is only continuing to take place in Ireland).

For obvious reasons we believe anything else will the reduce Retail stockists and reduce the requirement to maintain the viability of the supply chain as we know it

Q) What assurances have we received regarding future carriage charges, delivery times, service levels, missed deliveries, credits and dispute resolution?

A) Smiths News have announced a 10-year carriage freeze and also follow very similar and parallel working practices to InPost and adherence to the PDF Charter. Similar to InPost with Parcels, Smiths News have advanced their efforts in the arena of recycling to

assist with the continued viability of the News Supply Chain and welcome any retailer taking more of their services

Q) Has consideration been given to how Smiths News will service rural areas such as the highlands and islands in Scotland?

A) Under the requirement of Universal Supply, the principles of the PDF already referenced and enshrined in the OFT ruling, this matter was formally raised with Smiths News in July and their feedback underlined that there will be no impact to stores in these areas.

Q) If members are strongly opposed to aspects of these changes, is The Fed prepared to represent those views through the appropriate formal industry channels?

A) Yes, the FED exists to represent members and win or lose, we will always voice members concerns.