

Motion	Closing The General Members Branch to new members
Proposed by	Alex Marshall, Henry Chango Lopez, Martin Wogido, Farhana Uddin
Forum or Decision Maker	Executive Committee meeting
Date of meeting	27/05/26
Enabling power	Executive Committee
Background	<p>The General members branch was initially opened as a way to initiate organising opportunities in new sectors and ultimately open up a pathway to the creation of new branches.</p> <p>This was a valuable exercise, and has led to the creation of two new branches, the Nannies and The Yoga Teachers which have been very beneficial to the development of the union. Currently there is also E5 Bakehouse which continues to organise within the branch and is somewhere we would like to continue with.</p> <p>However, in its current iteration the branch has largely become service oriented with members in a widely disparate group of sectors and workplaces having often joined on the basis of receiving legal support. A few others have joined because they agree with the politics of the union but are a member in a largely solidaristic way, often dual carding. In those cases they could still donate through the solidarity squad.</p> <p>Legal Department data shows that the branch is now consistently using a lot more capacity than the proportion of its members. In the latest quarter (Q4, 2025) they had more than twice as many cases open as their proportion of membership (110%). This was higher than any other branch proportionally, including Cleaners (50% more) and Game workers (70% more). This is putting additional pressure on an already overstretched legal department with little chance of supporting workplace organisation and taking away from resources that could be used on existing branches. There is also an issue that as many of these members are from workplaces that the IWGB does not specialise in, it can take further resources to fully understand the way in which these workers operate.</p> <p>In addition, most members of the branch are paying lower than average dues. 205/270 members of the branch are paying £10 a month meaning an implicit subsidy from other areas of the union which is a political decision that should now be revisited.</p>

	<p>The question then falls to E5 bakery which has been an undoubted success, in a very underunionised area and with a genuine possibility of organising other similar workplaces going forward.</p> <p>The issue presented by this is that having an open membership hospitality branch, or any other sectoral definition, would likely lead to a vast influx of members in disparate workplaces that we couldn't organise and leading to high demands on the casework team. The proposal is therefore to close the branch to new members and for the EC to revert to where it can admit a workplace on an ad hoc basis if we are approached by workers, should they appear serious and the opportunity makes sense for us. Workers from E5 bakehouse would still be able to join the IWGB by contacting the IWGB.</p>
<p>Wording of motion or policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The General Members branch online sign-up form shall be removed and the current link deactivated. A new sign-up link shall be created for distribution to reps at E5, who will be encouraged to continue recruitment within their workplaces. - Any application from a new workplace seeking admission to the branch shall be referred to the EC, which shall determine admission on a case-by-case basis according to criteria including workplace type and the density of committed workers. This process shall be reviewed one year after implementation. - Existing members shall continue to receive legal support where required, but shall be informed of the branch's closure to new members and of the union's inability to commit organising resources outside the criteria established for new workplace admissions. - The minimum dues rate for the General Members branch shall be increased from £10 to £12, in line with other low-paid branches.
<p>Decision and vote tally</p>	<p>In Favour - 11</p> <p>Alex Marshall (President), Henry Chango Lopez (General Secretary), Maritza Castillo Calle (Vice-President), Kambiz Hemati (Private Hire Drivers branch Secretary), Helio Santos (Branch Support Officer), Wilson Ayala (Cleaners and Facilities branch Chair), Spring McParlin Jones (Game Workers branch Chair), Giovanna Quinteros (Cleaners and Facilities branch Women and Marginalised Genders Officer), Kenny Millard (Foster Care Workers branch Chair), Nader Awaad (Private Hire Drivers branch Chair), Nana Kesse (Security Guards branch Chair)</p> <p>Against - 0; Abstain - 0</p>