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To: All Members

15th July 2016

Dear Brother/Sister,

LABOUR PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTION

The Labour Party has formally announced a leadership contest, which will take place over the next two months. This week, Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC), which sets the rules for the election, agreed that Jeremy Corbyn will be on the ballot paper. Other challengers are putting their names forward.

Members will take an active interest in the contest, not least because the FBU reaffiliated to the party at the end of 2015. This means that some FBU members will be **eligible to vote** in this leadership election. The formal timetable and arrangements have now been made available by the Labour Party. FBU members need to prepare themselves to be eligible to vote. There are three possible ways to secure a vote:

1. FBU members who are **already paid up Labour Party members** and joined before 12 January 2016 will receive a ballot paper through their normal channels.
2. FBU members may still be eligible to vote as **'affiliated supporters'**, being a member of an affiliated trade union. To become an affiliated supporter you must have been a fully paid up FBU member before 12 January 2016, paying not only the trade membership fee, but both the **political levy** and the **affiliation levy**. This rule is determined by the Labour Party.

To become an affiliated supporter, you have to sign up online on the Labour Party's website (<http://support.labour.org.uk>), and agree to further conditions laid down by the party:

- Provide your name, address, postcode, email address and telephone number.
- You must be on the electoral register with a valid polling number.
- Sign a statement supporting Labour's aims and values and a declaration they do not belong to any organisation opposed to the Labour Party.
- Must agree the data protection statement.

There is **no cost** to FBU members eligible to vote using this route. However, if you cannot provide an email and insist on a postal vote, the FBU will be charged £2 per request.

3. FBU members who want to vote, but are not Labour Party members or affiliated supporters (as above), can join the Labour Party as a **'registered supporter'** (at a cost of £25) to get a vote. To become a registered supporter, you have to sign up online on the Labour Party's website (<http://support.labour.org.uk>), between Monday 18 July and Wednesday 20 July.

The Labour Party sets the following conditions to become a registered supporter:

- Over 18.
- On the electoral register with a valid polling number.
- Supply a valid email address, home address and date of birth, and able to pay fee online.
- Sign a statement supporting Labour's aims and values and a declaration they do not belong to any organisation opposed to the Labour Party.
- Pay a fee of **£25**.
- Must agree the data protection statement.

If FBU members are already registered supporters, you will have to reapply and pay this new rate to be eligible to vote this way. The FBU does not pay members to join any political party, so this fee has to be paid by the individual joining.

Retired and out of trade (**ROOT**) FBU members are **not eligible** to vote as an affiliated supporter. FBU members **anywhere in the UK** who pay **both** the political levy and the affiliation levy as part of their FBU membership are eligible to apply to be an affiliated supporter. The FBU has not used political fund money from regions 1 and 2 for the union's collective affiliation. However this does not affect the options for individual members, as long as they comply with other requirements.

The Labour Party will cross check records, so each individual only gets one vote: either as a Labour Party member, registered supporter or affiliated supporter. This is a one member, one vote election.

The timetable issued by the Labour Party is as follows:

DATE	EVENT
Tues 12 Jan	Join the Labour Party on or before this date to vote in the leadership election.
Tues 12 July	Timetable agreed. Freeze date for membership eligibility
Thurs 14 July	Timetable published
Mon 18 July	European Parliamentary Labour Party (EPLP) and Westminster Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) briefing, followed by EPLP and PLP hustings
Mon 18 July	Registered supporters applications open
Mon 18 July: 7pm	EPLP and PLP nominations open
Wed 20 July: 5pm	EPLP and PLP Nominations close and supporting nominations open
Wed 20 July: 5pm	Last date to join as registered supporter
Thurs 21 July: Noon	Deadline for validly nominated candidates to consent to nomination
Fri 22 July	Hustings period opens
Mon 8 Aug: Noon	Final date for membership arrears to be paid in full.
Mon 8 Aug: Noon	Final date for new and updated affiliated supporter lists to be received
Mon 15 Aug: Noon	Supporting nominations close
w/c Mon 22 Aug	Ballot mailing despatched
Wed 14 Sept: Noon	Last date for electronic ballot reissues
Fri 16 Sept	Hustings period closes
Wed 21 Sept: Noon	Ballot closes
Sat 24 Sept	Special conference to announce result

The FBU will be producing a wide range of materials on this leadership contest throughout the coming months. Members should check the website, twitter and circulars for the latest information.

Yours fraternally,



DAVE GREEN
National Officer

DG/kc