

To: The Member of Parliament
Named in the Address

(via email)

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Dear Member of Parliament

Show your support for safe work & furlough pay for your constituents

The coronavirus pandemic poses huge risks to health, jobs and livelihoods of a kind unseen outside wartime.

While restrictive measures are vital to save lives, by containing the spread of the virus, they are also already having a chilling effect on the UK economy, with tens of thousands of jobs and businesses now at risk.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has worked hard with the CBI and the government over the last three weeks to design an economic rescue package for the nation. We are pleased that government sees the value in this tripartite approach to policy making – now more than ever.

However, the success of this aid package in keeping the country and the economy afloat depends on more than good employers doing their bit. We have many examples of how good employers have put in plans to help maintain their businesses and protect their workers, but we really need to see all employers acting in the same way. We need to see every company in our region treating this crisis seriously.

That is why I write to you, on behalf of the trade union movement in Yorkshire and the Humber.

I am asking you to **make a public statement** to all the employers in your constituency to do the following:

1. **Guarantee safe working conditions**, including social distancing, in line with the Health & Safety Executive's requirements
2. **Guarantee Personal Protective Equipment** to all staff who need it
3. **Close unsafe workplaces**; where an employer cannot guarantee a safe workplace it should be closed, in consultation with a trade union
4. **Guarantee no lay offs** for any workers

5. **Guarantee enhanced sick pay** to all staff who need to isolate for their own sake or a member of their household
6. **Top up the government wage subsidy** to 100% for furloughed workers where possible
7. **Full pay for parents and carers** who need to stay home during the lockdown
8. **Treat staff with dignity and respect** through this outbreak
9. **Recognise a trade union at your company**, so we can work with you to ease this crisis.

The crisis has brought out the best in people. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers, retired health workers, returning in their thousands to assist the NHS in its efforts to save lives. Neighbourhoods coming together. The healthy taking care of the vulnerable, are all great examples of British values of kindness, solidarity and recognition that in a society, people pull together collectively to survive testing times.

I hope that we can see this spirit reflected in employers across the region, and that you are able to **play your part in supporting working people in your constituency, by issuing a press statement** to this effect.

The TUC stands ready to work with employers, politicians, and policy makers at all levels to steer the country through this outbreak. I welcome a response from you on how we can work together to respond to COVID-19.

Best wishes and keep safe.

Yours sincerely



Bill Adams
Regional Secretary
TUC Yorkshire & the Humber