



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Neil Crothall  
Secretary  
The Communication Workers Union  
Great Western Branch  
BT CTE  
Marsh Street  
Bristol BS1 4BW

Our Ref: AL6536

24 November 2020

Dear Neil,

Thank you for contacting me about restructuring at BT.

Like you, I regret any loss of jobs in the UK as a result of redundancy, and I very much appreciate the efforts of BT staff to keep communication lines open during a period where many people have relied on them to work or learn from home. I have been assured that my Ministerial colleagues regularly engage with BT about a range of topics, including their UK workforce, at both the official and ministerial levels. Ultimately, however, BT is a private company so decisions about its structure and employment are a matter for its Board.

I know that Ministers are committed to boosting job creation. On 8 July, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Government's Plan for Jobs, which makes up to £30 billion available with a clear goal to create, protect, and support jobs. The plan includes three main points: supporting people to find the jobs that are out there, creating new jobs through investing in our infrastructure and housing, and protecting jobs by revitalising the hard-hit sectors upon which many jobs depend.

These will build upon the Prime Minister's announcement on 30 June of a "New Deal" which puts jobs and infrastructure at the centre of the Government's economic growth strategy. This will take the form of £5bn of capital investment projects, supporting jobs and the economic recovery.

I would be happy pass on your concerns to ministerial colleagues at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Please let me know if this would be of interest.

There is no denying that there are difficult choices to be made ahead, but I am confident that the country can get through this together. I am hopeful that sticking to the economic plan and the plan for jobs will mean that nobody will be left without hope or opportunity.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lewer', written over a horizontal line.