



LAMBETH PALACE

Mr Neil Crothall
The Communication Workers Union
Great Western Branch, BT CTE
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Mary Smalley
Correspondence Officer

Date: 3rd December 2020
Ref: 69854

Dear Mr Crothall,

Thank you for your recent letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Much as he would wish, he is sadly unable to respond personally or in detail to each of the many emails and letters he receives, so I have been asked to reply on his behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Archbishop Justin is often asked to make statements on a wide range of issues and many people write asking him to intervene in domestic and international matters. Your concern over this employment issue is of course well understood.

Letters like your own just go to show that people are seeking to respond to the current uncertainties which is a constant encouragement to Archbishop Justin. He is grateful to you for writing and hopes that you will understand that it must be for him to decide when and about what subjects he raises in public. For him not to speak out about an issue does not necessarily mean that it is not of concern to him, but the context and opportunity must be right if any intervention is to be effective.

Within the Church of England, the Bishop of Durham takes a national lead on topics surrounding work and pensions in his role as Lord Spiritual, and frequently raises issues in the House of Lords. You may therefore wish to contact him concerning this matter.

Thank you again for taking the trouble to write, and please be assured of our prayers and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,