



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Neil Crothall  
The Communication Workers Union  
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Marsh Street  
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Our Ref: HD/BB75663

26 November 2020

Dear Neil,

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed redundancies within BT Technology.

The telecoms sector has been one of the critical services needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Telecoms professionals such as the skilled workers at BT are designated key workers who have been vital to keeping our country connected during the pandemic.

I am therefore deeply concerned by the reports of compulsory redundancies and downgraded terms and conditions planned for parts of BT's workforce across the UK.

Any job losses will have a real impact on working families and local communities at a time when the UK faces an unemployment crisis on a scale not seen in decades. I stand in solidarity with BT workers.

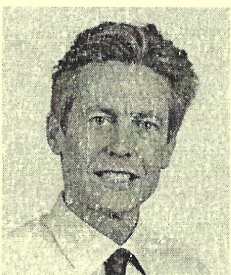
The Government's general position is that terms and conditions of employment are for negotiation and agreement between employers and employees (or their representatives). When pressed on this specific issue recently in Parliament, the Government said on 23 September that it regularly engages with BT about a range of topics, including its UK workforce.

However, the Minister for Digital Infrastructure also said the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had not had any recent discussions with the Communication Workers Union (CWU) on the reorganisation of BT, nor had the union requested a meeting with DCMS Ministers on this issue.

As you may be aware, the Labour Party's 2019 manifesto committed to strengthen trade union rights and repeal anti-trade union legislation, and I know that Labour's new leader, Keir Starmer, remains absolutely committed to these objectives.

My Labour colleagues and I will continue to urge the Government to listen very carefully to the concerns that have been raised by the CWU on behalf of its members. Equally, I sincerely hope BT will engage constructively with CWU to discuss ways in which compulsory redundancies could be avoided.

Indeed, I have recently written to the CEO of BT Group, Philip Jansen, along with the Secretary of



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