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Mr Neil Crothall
Secretary
CWU Great Western Branch
BT CTE
Marsh St
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Our Ref: PK/YF38039

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➤ A Strong Voice for Makerfield

Dear Mr Crothall,

Thank you for your letter dated 10th November concerning the BT Group.

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 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.

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

Thank you once again for contacting me about this issue.

Yours sincerely

Yvonne Fovargue

Yvonne Fovargue MP
Labour Member for Makerfield