

PRESS RELEASE

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HUDGHTON SEEKS ANSWERS FROM ABB CHIEF ON EU WORKER'S RIGHTS

Ian Hudgton MEP, the Scottish National Party's European spokesperson on Employment, has written to ABB's UK Managing Director seeking clarification on what procedures are in place to keep workers at the Kingsway East plant fully informed and consulted in the wake of last week's shock announcement.

Mr Hudgton, who was telephoned at home over the weekend by concerned workers has written to Trevor Gregory, the head of ABB's operations in the UK. In his letter, the MEP refers to the EU's commitment for worker's to be consulted when threatened with redundancy, and asks Mr Gregory to outline how these principles are being applied to staff at the Dundee plant. In his letter, Mr Hudgton writes:

" I was deeply saddened to learn about the closure, with the resultant loss of over two hundred jobs to the city of Dundee.

Following the announcement, I was approached by employees, seeking my assistance as an elected Member of the European Parliament, and to see if I could establish what help is being given to employees who are facing either redundancy or displacement.

You will be aware that the European Union places great emphasis on the rights of workers to consultation, particularly when decisions being taken by a company are likely to threaten jobs. Accordingly I would be obliged if you could let me know:

- What steps were taken to consult employees in the run-up to last week's announcement, and
- What measures are now in hand to ensure that employees are given the advice and assistance they need to develop skills with a view to increasing their employability and adaptability?

Although, disappointingly, successive UK Governments have chosen not to implement EU proposals on employee's rights in full, I would hope that your company will do more than just the minimum to aid your workforce through this difficult time."

The MEP who was involved in talks in Brussels in January this year with Levi's workers when redundancy notices were sent out to Dundee workers has today repeated the concerns he voiced then - that Scotland is seen as a soft touch on employee rights allowing companies to shut up shop with all too apparent ease. Mr Hudghton wants the UK Government to maximise employer protection laws and has offered to meet ABB chiefs to air his concerns.

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