



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Alex Rowley MSP
Member for Mid Scotland and Fife
alex.rowley.msp@parliament.scot

Ore Valley Business Centre
93 Main Street
Lochgelly KY5 9AF
T: 01592 786725

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Economy,
Fair Work and Culture
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Our Ref: AR01/CW/cw

22nd January 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

I am writing to you to raise concerns that have been raised with me by many working in the construction sector around the safety of sites during this latest lockdown.

One worker told me the other day that he works on a site for over 100 workers and there are two small toilets. Another, on a large site, talked about workers not socially distancing and not being able to do so, and also no social distancing in the canteen and poor provision of toilets. I have had another worker contact me and tell me his wife has been shielding because of illness and he is terrified he will pick the virus up at work and take it home to his wife.

These kinds of comments, and more, are reflective of a statement issued by Unite who say they have been inundated by construction members in a state of fear for themselves and their families, fearful of catching the virus and equally fearful of losing their job and being plunged into poverty if they refuse to work.

As you know the reason we are in another lockdown scenario is that the new strain of the virus is much more transmissible so it is difficult to work out why the government has treated the construction sector differently this time and is allowing workers to be put in a position where they are frightened to go to work but frightened not to for fear of losing their jobs.

I would ask that you give this matter your immediate attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Alex Rowley MSP
Mid Scotland and Fife