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Michelle Russell
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By email: Michelle.Russell@sia.gov.uk

Dear Ms Russell

INCREASED THREATS WITHIN CASH PROCESSING AND TRANSIT INDUSTRY

I am writing to raise our concerns at the increasing threat level within the cash processing and transit industry, and to flag further developments that are likely to exacerbate these threats.

By way of background GMB has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that the cash – and wider guarding – industry were professionalised and standards raised to protect workers and ensure that criminal elements were kept out, keeping both our members and the wider public safe.

You will also be aware that there have been a number of significant attacks on cash processing and transit sites in the past 12 months, and that a key component of industry safety, is the vetting thresholds of UK cash industry workers, with a minimum of 5 – 10 years required (role dependent), including increased financial scrutiny of workers, to ensure that their personal circumstances do not create or enhance risk factors.

It is known that organised crime networks actively monitor operations across the UK, including regularly stealing tools used in attacks, and regrettably some workers still make poor decisions to facilitate criminal activities.

However, we are now however in the unprecedented situation where the deliberate actions of key customers and companies in the cash industry have effectively 'broken' the market, which will result in increased risk to the entire industry. Both G4S Cash and Loomis are proposing a pay freeze for their staff this year, yet when challenged neither was able to show if it had considered the increased risk and insecurity this would bring to the entire industry.

It is inevitable that with the rising cost of living pressures that organised crime networks will more actively pursue and target increasingly vulnerable workers in the industry – it is certainly not going to de-risk the industry.

We are calling for an urgent assessment of the increased risk these actions are going to bring to the industry and for the SIA to thoroughly challenge and hold both G4S Cash and Loomis accountable for the consequences of their conscious business decisions.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely



Eamon O'Hearn
National Officer

CC Dan Jarvis – Minister of State (Security)