



GMB Midland & East Coast Region calls on Rolls Royce to act responsibly, and review their decision to cut jobs

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Responding to the news that manufacturing giant Rolls Royce plans to cut thousands of jobs in the UK, the GMB Trade Union has called on the employer to **"act responsibly and put the future of the company and its workers first"**.

The GMB Trade Union represents Rolls Royce workers across the company's operations, in manufacturing, engineering, security, logistics and throughout the supply chain. This decision will have a disastrous impact on the regional economy, with the knock on effect placing potentially hundreds more jobs at risk in the supply chain and wider economy.

Martin Allen, GMB Regional Secretary in the Midland & East Coast Region said:



“The workers at Rolls Royce represent some of the highest skilled manufacturing workers in the world. The decision to slash jobs in this way will put the long term prospects of the industry in jeopardy, and leave thousands of families and communities in the region devastated. It’s vital that Rolls Royce review this decision as a matter of urgency and that the Trade Unions representing its workers are properly consulted”.

Lesley Waudby, GMB Senior Organiser for Manufacturing in the Midland & East Coast Region said:

“Rolls Royce is a major employer in Derby, Hucknall and across the country; this is nothing short of an emergency. We need to see urgent action from Government and those at the top of the company to review this decision and protect high skilled manufacturing, security and logistical jobs from being lost. Rolls Royce needs to act responsibly and put the future of the company and its workers first. Our GMB reps and branch officers at Rolls Royce will continue to fight for their members’ interests”.

Ian Clarke, Secretary of the GMB Midland & East Coast Rolls Royce Branch said:

“Today's news from the company is a massive blow for our industry and our members working at both our Derby and Hucknall sites. Since the Covid-19 pandemic took hold in the UK we have lived in worrying times. We have seen mass redundancies across our industry, customers and supply chains.

This news couldn't have come at a worse time with Rolls Royce just finishing its restructuring scheme which would see the company down size its work force worldwide. Now with today's announcement by Rolls Royce of a possible 9000 job losses, this will be devastating news for our members and is yet another massive blow to our highly skilled manufacturing industry.

This pandemic has not only taken so many lives before their time it has taken so many livelihoods too. We as a branch and the GMB will fight to protect as many of our skilled jobs as we can and will offer support to those we can't. We will be asking the Government for support in our region to help secure jobs for those affected both at Rolls Royce and its supply chain”.

The GMB's position is clear; this crisis will pass, and when it does it's essential that Rolls Royce is in a position to rebuild their manufacturing and engineering operations in the region. We will be seeking meetings with Rolls Royce, Government figures and our members to discuss our position as a matter of urgency.

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Notes:

For queries, background and interviews please contact the GMB Midland & East Coast Communications & Campaign Unit on 0115 960 7171.

