



Self isolation exemptions gamble with keyworkers' lives

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GMB union has responded to further government announcements today (Friday 23 July) which reveal new details on the workers in England that may be exempt from self-isolation rules, including those working in energy, food, transport and chemicals sectors.

Gary Smith, GMB General Secretary, said:

“The decision taken by the Government to introduce exemptions for critical workers from self-isolation guidance has been driven by resources, not by what’s safe for the workers or their families.

“It’s not frontline workers following covid precautions threatening to put key services at risk, but the cuts, underfunding and understaffing of these services that means we don’t have the capacity we need to respond in times of crisis.

“The problem isn’t workers getting pinged, the problem is workers getting coronavirus

“Whether it’s in energy, waste or in our supermarkets, the story is the same: workers who have to make sacrifices as a result of the failure of those at the top have to take the most risk.

“GMB is urging the Ministers to rethink their decision to gamble with the lives of our key workers, before it’s too late.”