GMB NORTHERN REGION

PRESS RELEASE

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FIREFIGHTERS VOTE FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT SELLAFIELD

A major industrial dispute has arisen at Sellafield with the decision by an important group of workers to vote for industrial action.

GMB Members who work as Firefighters at Sellafield have voted by 2 to 1 to take industrial action as a result of on-going issues relating to the pay and grading of their role.

The GMB Union said that the strength of feeling of Firefighter Members has been made crystal clear as a result of their feelings of being stonewalled and fobbed off by Sellafield management.

GMB Senior Organiser for Sellafield Chris Jukes said:

"Members have expressed utter frustration to us at the way that the Company has treated them and indeed it certainly appears that this has been taking place for many years. Taking Industrial Action is a last resort to any worker and is a sign of them having no other option due to Management action."

Mr Jukes said that the only reason that this situation has arisen is due to Management.

"The Firefighters do a vitally important job and they feel completely taken advantage of by Management, relying on doing work over and above what they are paid for. It is sinful that this highly skilled group of workers have been put in this position. The result is that they have turned out in large numbers to express their view and in so doing delivered a strong mandate for industrial action. The Firefighters at Sellafield deserve better than this".

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