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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UNION ATTACKS COMPANY'S SUSPENSION OF STAFF**

The North East's biggest general trade union has hit out at a Stockton based company over the company's decision to suspend staff without pay.

Arngrove Construction Services based in the Preston Court Business Park in Stockton suspended what the GMB Union believes to be 25 out of the Company's full workforce of 26 employees in October.

The Union says that this move is extremely curious to say the least and questioned why a Company should take such a course of action.

GMB Regional Organiser Stephen Thompkins said:

"Effectively this looks like a back door lockout of the workforce and we believe that the Company may be about to go into Administration and be seeking in some way to avoid paying its workers as the law says".

The GMB has pointed to an increasing trend of Companies that are trying on various means to avoid paying its workforce and effectively letting the taxpayer through the Insolvency Service pick up any future bill.

Mr. Thompkins said:

"You would not think that we were living in 2011 but in Victorian times. Companies such as Arngrove are just seeking to flout the law and their moral responsibilities to the workers and the community where they are based. We will be seeking all legal support possible to ensure that Arngrove do the right thing by their workforce, act reasonably and within the law".

**-ENDS-**

