



# PRESS RELEASE

## UNION MEMBERS WIN PAYOUT

Members of the North's biggest general trade union are today digesting a successful employment tribunal decision against a manufacturing company now in liquidation and which was formerly based in Hartlepool.

The GMB Trade Union has been successful on behalf of its members in obtaining a Protective Award, granted at Employment Tribunal for the sum of £148,533 relating to 90 days pay and covering about 30 members. This was due to the company Horsley Quenet Machining Ltd, known as HQ Engineering, and which went into liquidation in 2006, failing to comply with the legislation relating to redundancy.

The GMB said today that this was an important judgment which would help in the current difficult industrial climate where companies seek to avoid their legal and social responsibilities.

GMB Regional Organiser Jimmy Skivington said:

"The Company and the Administrators tried to avoid their responsibilities under Employment Law. We put a strong case to the Employment Tribunal and we are pleased that in such difficult circumstances for GMB members effected by the closure, that the Tribunal Office found in our members' favour".

The GMB said that their members' complaints were that HQ Engineering had failed to comply with its requirements under Section 188 of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Mr Skivington said:

"These are really tough times in manufacturing. What we can't have is companies seeking to avoid proper consultation methods and preventing working people and their families getting what they are owed. In what is arguably the worst industrial climate in living memory, the responsibility is on companies to meet their legal, social and moral responsibilities to their workers. Where they don't this judgment sends out a clear message that the GMB will fight for our members' interests".

**-ENDS-**

CONTACT: Jimmy Skivington Organiser 07870 176746

### NOTES TO EDITORS

For further details of the case please contact either Jimmy Skivington 07870176746 or Paul Shevlin, Thompsons 0191 2690400

