

# Coronavirus threat leaves gig economy workers 'abandoned and penniless'



## In the face of a global health crisis bogus self-employment model is screwing over the disadvantaged

The threat of coronavirus is leaving gig economy workers 'abandoned and penniless' says GMB.

Workers in the gig economy – or on zero hours contact – who have to self-isolate due to the coronavirus are often left with no wages and little support from their employer.



One recent case saw a delivery driver contacted by a customer who considered themselves high risk.

The driver told the company who instructed her not to come back into work – meaning she would have no wages until she was given the all clear.

GMB stepped in and the company backed down – but more and more gig economy workers are suffering the same fate.

**Mick Rix, GMB National Officer, said:**

“The threat of Coronavirus is a huge problem for employers and worker across the UK.

“But workers in the so-called gig economy, or on zero hours contracts, are left abandoned and penniless if they have to self-isolate.

“Once again the bogus self-employment model is screwing over the disadvantaged.

“GMB is calling on all employers – regardless of the contract– to do the right thing and pay their workers if they have to take time off due to the global health crisis.”



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## Press office

079859 1525698

[press.office@gmb.org.uk](mailto:press.office@gmb.org.uk)

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[info@gmb.org.uk](mailto:info@gmb.org.uk)

