

Hermes: come clean over health & safety risks



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Several courier companies, including Hermes, appear to have passed all the risk in terms of employment conditions and working time regulations to individual couriers – with no thought to their safety of that of the general public.



“ GMB is calling on Hermes to come clean over its responsibility as an employer. Forcing couriers who deliver on public highways to work over 13 days consecutively, and in a number of instances more than 12 hours a day, must now be considered a major public safety issue.

Mick Rix, GMB National Officer

Hermes pressurised couriers to work 13 days consecutively during the festive peak period, it is claimed.

Most couriers worked more than 12 hours each day during December.

Many couriers who wanted a day off say they were either threatened that their services would be terminated, or that their delivery rounds would be cut.

The company belatedly also sent out notices to couriers trying to offer cash incentives of up to £20 for working extra Sundays.

GMB's letter to Hermes asks a number of searching questions over the company's arbitrary treatment of Couriers and their service model which appears to be based on passing employers risks on public safety to individual couriers.

“ Employers such as Hermes believe they have passed all the risk for liability to the individual.

We are calling on the Government, especially the Department for Transport, to investigate the link between excessive hours and consecutive days working and the increasing threat to public safety to other road users. Companies such as Hermes cannot evade their responsibility and pass the risk on to their couriers.

Mick Rix, GMB National Officer

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