



10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Sent by email to:**

Maria Eagle, MP

Dear Maria Eagle MP,

I am writing to you on behalf of GMB and Unite members working for BFS Group Ltd trading as Bidfood.

Bidfood provide the 'deployable food' contract for the MOD, providing 'food supply solutions' for the army, both domestically and abroad.

Our members are the drivers and warehouse pickers that ensure this food gets to our armed forces, they are integral to the defence supply chain.

GMB and Unite are currently in dispute with Bidfood over pay. Our members have jointly rejected a pay offer of a 50p per hour increase.

The specific issue for the joint trade unions - and for a Labour government committed to delivering for working people - is one of poverty pay rates for our members working in the Bidfood warehouses and in the MOD supply chain.

Ten warehouses across the country would have a new rate of pay of £12:50 per hour. This is simply not enough to maintain a positive differential with the National Minimum Wage.

Bidfood posted an operating profit of £57 million in 2023, they paid £18 million in dividends and reported strong revenue growth. They can afford to do better for the workers keeping our armed forces fed.

We would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the issue of poverty pay in the current supply chain and how this relates to future procurement strategies for defence.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Houghton'.

Nadine Houghton,

GMB National Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Jones'.

Adrian Jones,

Unite National Officer