

GMB CONGRESS 2022

EMERGENCY MOTION FOR CONGRESS

EMERGENCY MOTION ONE: TERMINAL CHAOS

This Congress recognises that as travel COVID restrictions were lifted on 18 March 2022 we started to see scenes of airport chaos at Easter as the public started to have the confidence to fly.

It has long been a race to the bottom culture at UK airports with indirect supply chain staff suffering most. These contracted staff such as check in staff, baggage handlers, catering, cleaners and security are the lowest paid and have suffered at the hands of airlines pushing the tenders and margins down. These workers are keyworkers and essential to the running of the airports yet are not paid well.

GMB has been campaigning to save the Aviation Sector to ensure a safe recovery for workers and the public, but our efforts have fallen on deaf ears.

Unions consistently made companies aware of the consequence of the thousands of furloughed airport workers being made redundant and who left the sector for higher paid jobs and not returning.

It was no surprise that many of these low paid workers paid under £10 left the airports to find higher paid jobs in burger chains or retail.

Congress, the chaos we are still seeing around our airports today is no fault of the workers. These low paid staff have taken pay cuts of at least 10% over the pandemic and are now being denied decent below inflation pay increases to allow them to survive. They continue to work under pressure on back-to-back shifts, skipping breaks just to provide a service.

We call on Congress to put pressure on the airport operating and ground handling companies to ensure that all directly employed and contract staff are paid at least the London Living Wage at all London airports as an absolute minimum.

In addition, the airline industry should work with unions to build back the reputation of the industry so that it is a model of exemplary pay, terms and conditions.

BRANCH: A37 Aviation Security Branch
REGION London Region

