

GMB CONGRESS 2021

EMERGENCY MOTION 2

TITLE: JUSTICE FOR GMB WORKPLACE REPS

This Congress is appalled to see some Labour Councils using flimsy catch-all accusations of so-called breaches of Codes of Conduct to discipline and dismiss long-standing union reps for standing up for their right to protest and express their views.

The most recent example arose in April 2021 when a Labour Council, Islington, dismissed a loyal, long-standing member of staff and GMB representative, Gary Bolister after 24 years of service and a previously completely unblemished disciplinary record.

Our member has in effect been dismissed for speaking out and taking part in peaceful and lawful protests (in line with Covid restrictions) as an Islington resident, against the implementation of Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes (LTNs).

Congress calls upon the CEC to:-

- Lobby and campaign for the rights of free speech and lawful peaceful protests;
- The right of council and other public sector employees to lawfully express their views without views of being disciplined;
- Campaign against the use of employers Codes of Conduct to silence political opposition;
- Support and protect our reps when they stand up for their lawful beliefs whether during their working or personal time;
- Raise the profile of the campaign calling on Islington Council to reinstate Gary Bolister.

Islington & Haringey Branch
LONDON REGION