



**GMB**

Mary Turner House,  
22 Stephenson Way, Euston  
London, NW1 2HD  
020 7391 6700  
info@gmb.org.uk  
www.gmb.org.uk

Our ref: NH/tm

15 February 2021

Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

**By email: [matt.hancock.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:matt.hancock.mp@parliament.uk)**

Dear Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

I am writing to you regarding 'Quarantine Hotels', which as you know, open today. The GMB is the recognised trade union for both Mitie and G4S, we also represent many of the ground staff at Heathrow.

As of this morning, the GMB has still not been involved in any risk assessment process for the security staff working at these hotels.

This is significant, not just because the GMB wants to ensure the safety of our members, but because we also want to play our part in ensuring the roll out of the vaccine is not hampered by new variants spreading amongst the community. Our members will be the main interaction with travellers during their quarantine; by protecting these staff we protect the wider community.

Consulting with the GMB and listening to the voices of the workers providing the service will be essential in preventing new variants spreading outside of these hotels.

A thorough and regular workplace testing regime will also be needed and there must also be assurances that staff will be paid in full for any self-isolation period. We know that lateral flow tests can provide false negatives and we also know that many low paid workers feel they cannot afford to self-isolate. The government must confirm that it will subsidise employers to pay staff full pay for any self-isolation period when working in a quarantine hotel and step in to provide a watertight workplace testing regime.

The GMB must know that appropriate PPE is being provided and that staff are receiving adequate training. We need thorough consultation and negotiation so we can understand and have input on the process and procedures for our members working in the hotels, particularly as we know that airport hotels can have poor ventilation. We have seen clear examples from Australia's quarantine hotels where the virus has spread amongst guests and staff who have had no direct interaction with each other when doors into the hotel halls have been opened, clearly this must be prevented.

/...

The GMB looks forward to hearing from you with confirmation that all staff will receive full pay for any self-isolation period and that our members voices will be heard when developing risk assessments and processes for the staff working in the hotels.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Houghton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Nadine Houghton**  
**GMB National Officer**

cc Robert Courts MP