



# **BAKERS' UNION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

**Chair:** John McDonnell MP

**Vice-Chairs:** David Crausby MP, Linda Riordan MP

**ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Bakers' Union Parliamentary Group was launched in October 2008 to bring together supportive MPs to work with the union in a concerted and effective way on issues of concern. The Group is chaired by John McDonnell MP, with David Crausby MP and Linda Riordan MP as Vice-Chairs.

This report provides an overview of the work of the Group during June 2010 – May 2011. Parliament rose for the summer recess on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and returned on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The House then broke for the party conference recess between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> October. The Christmas recess lasted from 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010 until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011; for half-term from 17<sup>th</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011; for Easter from 5<sup>th</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> April and for Whitsun recess from 24<sup>th</sup> May until 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The period of this Report saw the 2010 General Election and the election of a Conservative – Liberal Democrat Coalition Government. As a result the Group has had to build again the campaigns which it is pursuing under this new Government.

## **PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

The Parliamentary Group works to an agenda set by the union and its members, and meets with supportive MPs on a regular basis approximately every 2 months, in addition to specific Ministerial or strategy meetings. Group meetings provide an opportunity for the union to keep MPs fully informed of concerns as well as discussing parliamentary strategy for taking those campaigns forward.

Even where we have difficulties in directly changing Government policy, the work of the Group is to influence a broad range of MPs and thereby affect the climate of opinion at Westminster, within which the Government has to operate. The programme of ongoing parliamentary group work aims to build a basis of support among MPs with detailed knowledge of the union's concerns as well as developing within the union itself a thorough understanding of the parliamentary process and the consequent opportunities for intervention.

Following a process of identifying MPs with bakeries in their constituencies 3 MPs agreed to join the BFAWU Parliamentary Group – Catherine McKinnell MP (Newcastle North), Paul Murphy MP (Torfaen) and Teresa Pearce MP (Erith and Thamesmead)– taking the Group membership up to 26. The Group will continue to build up a dialogue with MPs in order to increase the influence and concerns of the BFAWU.

The Group has held regular meeting throughout the course of this report. Meetings were held in October 2010; November 2010; February 2011; March 2011 and May 2011.

# KEY CAMPAIGNS

## Workplace Temperature

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- **Long-term campaign objective:** The introduction of a maximum working temperature of around 30°C and 27°C for those doing strenuous work (where once the temperature reaches the maximum limit, then control measures must be implemented to reduce the heat and/or the effect of the heat on the employee) and increased surveillance/enforcement by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- **Strategy:** Raise awareness about the problems/prevalence of high temperatures in workplaces and push the campaign for a maximum working temperature into mainstream political debate – within Parliament and beyond.

As a result of BFAWU campaigning Professor Roy Kemp was commissioned to produce a report on maximum working temperature. Professor Kemp reported in October 2009 and concluded that there was no need for any legislation or regulation on temperature. The Group believe that the report was flawed on a number of counts – limitation of the HSE's survey of stakeholders; a resistance to robust legislation and enforcement, and an attempt to overcomplicate the debate with science.

The Group wrote to Iain Duncan-Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (DWP) in July 2010 requesting a meeting to discuss temperature at work. Owing to diary commitments the Minister declined a meeting but referred the Group to officials in the HSE. Consequently officials from the HSE attended the BFAWU Group meeting in November 2010.

Unfortunately, the HSE representatives confirmed that there were no further plans with the Executive to investigate the issue of workplace heat and in particular, they would not be recommending legislative change. They did, however, agree to remain in dialogue with the Group regarding this issue and recognised that the HSE's reporting procedures needed to be re-evaluated in order to measure incidence where heat was a factor. Similarly, they acknowledged the need to investigate the long term impact of regular exposure to heat.

- **Government Position:** We have had no useful dialogue with the Government regarding this issue and it is probably safe to presume that they would not support strengthening the legislation in anyway given their commitment to deregulation.
- **Labour Party Position:** Whilst in Government the Labour Party also supported deregulation of workplaces and had an aversion to strong legislation/enforcement. As DWP Minister (with the responsibility for HSE), Lord McKenzie was actually fairly sympathetic regarding this issue and the Group developed a constructive dialogue with him but it seemed at the time as though his hands were tied by other forces in the Labour Party and civil servants.

## Next Steps:

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**Parliamentary Action:** EDM 630 Maximum Working Temperature was tabled by the Group Chair, John McDonnell MP, to highlight this issue and has to date been supported by 47 MPs (Annex 1). A number of Parliamentary Questions have been tabled by members of the Group on this issue and throughout June and July Group members will be applying for a backbench debate on workplace temperature which has to be answered by a Government Minister.

The Group are also organising a Parliamentary Seminar on 5<sup>th</sup> July on workplace temperature in order to build a wider alliance to advance the campaign. Invites have been extended to a wide range of trade union health and safety officers, campaigners and academics

**Collating evidence:** We have already collated quite a lot of research regarding this issue. We are now looking at commissioning a brief survey for the Bakers Union (and other unions) to send round members for more (up-to-date anecdotes). In the longer term, we need to commission more significant academic research in to the long terms effects of regular exposure to high heats (something the HSE also acknowledged).

## The power of the Supermarkets: Below Cost Selling

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- **Long-term campaign objective:** The introduction of a regulatory framework that is designed to prevent the practice of below cost selling and the excessive power of large retailers over bakeries
- **Strategy:** To raise awareness about the practice of below cost selling by large retailers and the inordinate power of supermarkets.

The ongoing practice of loss leading, or below cost selling of bread, continues to be of concern to the Group. Large supermarkets are able by economies of scale to sell bread at a low price which smaller retailers are unable to match. The practice of below cost selling impacts not only on small retailers but also directly affects employment conditions in bakeries and animal welfare.

The Group wrote to Vince Cable MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Reform (BIS), and Caroline Spelman MP, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in July 2010 to raise concerns over below cost selling. Following this the Group wrote to the Minister of State at DEFRA, Jim Paice MP, in October 2010 requesting a meeting. The Group engaged with the Labour Shadow team by writing to John Denham, Shadow Secretary of State at BIS in October 2010. This resulted in the Group meeting with Gordon Banks MP, a member of the BIS Shadow team in March 2011. This meeting was productive and the Shadow Minister agreed to work with the BFAWU Parliamentary Group on ways to highlight this issue.

- **Government Position:** Since the election of the Coalition Government they have refused to meet with the Parliamentary Group. Given the lack of dialogue due to the Government's unwillingness to meet their position is unclear. In September 2010 the Coalition Government announced that a supermarket ombudsman, or grocery code adjudicator, would be appointed. A draft Bill

making provision for this was published on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011 and is open to consultation.

- **Labour Party Position:** Whilst in Government the Labour Party supported deregulation of the workplace and displayed an aversion to bringing forward strong legislation or enforcement of existing regulations. The Group met with Gordon Banks MP, Shadow Minister with responsibility for this area, who was relatively sympathetic on this issue. In discussions with the Shadow Minister he emphasised the necessity of portraying in a positive light rather than it being seen as simply raising the price of bread to the consumer.

## Next Steps

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**Parliamentary Action:** The Group tabled *EDM 631 Below Cost Selling* which has received 33 signatures to date (Annex 1). In addition the Group has tabled a number of Parliamentary Questions to extract information from the Government.

The draft Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill was published by the Government on 24<sup>th</sup> May and will provide for a groceries code adjudicator, or supermarket ombudsman. The Group will examine the Bill with an eye to tabling amendments to ensure that the adjudicator has sufficient powers to tackle below cost selling. The Group will also seek an adjournment debate on the issue as well as continuing to seek meetings at a Ministerial level.

**Collating evidence:** To advance the issue the Group is making contact with relevant, interested organisations with a view to commissioning research on this issue. Preliminary background research has already been gathered from the House of Commons Library.

## Health and Safety

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- **Long-term campaign objective:** To defeat the Government's proposals which lessen the health and safety regulatory regime on business and the severe budget cuts to the HSE which can only serve to weaken their reporting framework.
- **Strategy:** To participate in the current debates regarding RIDDOR; and to utilise opportunities to raise our concerns with the HSE's reporting framework. The Group will also seek to raise the issue through several Parliamentary mechanisms – adjournment debates, Parliamentary Questions, Ministerial meetings and Early Day Motions.

The Group made a written submission to the Government's review of health and safety in June 2010 and subsequently met with Lord Young in July 2010. His report, *Common Sense, Common Safety* was published in October 2010 and repeated a number of inaccuracies and deliberate misconceptions regarding health and safety in the workplace. Lord Young was subsequently forced to resign from his position following remarks he made to undercover reporters from the Daily Telegraph.

The Group has also been active on issues surrounding the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995. The Government announced a consultation to look into whether the regulations were fit for purpose

which the Group submitted a response towards. The current position is that the Government is evaluating the responses to the RIDDOR consultation and will respond in due course.

- **Government Position:** The Government are seeking to reduce the reporting 'burdens' on employers. One of the key proposals of Lord Young's report, *Common Sense, Common Safety*, was to amend RIDDOR by extending to seven days the period before an injury or an accident needs to be reported.
- **Labour Party Position:** The previous Labour administration took a de-regulatory approach to workplace health and safety and was wary of bringing forward stronger legislation and enforcement. However, the new political climate with Labour in opposition may make it easier for them to take a stance against cuts in health and safety.

### Next Steps

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**Parliamentary Action:** The Group tabled EDM 1488 Health and Safety in the Food Industry as part of the TUCG Health and Safety Week of Action in March 2011 (Annex 1). The Motion, which has been supported by 59 MPs recognises 'the hazards facing workers in the food industry' and calls for improved 'health and safety in the workplace rather than allow companies to downgrade their obligations to their workforces'. The Group in addition tabled a number of Parliamentary Questions on the issues of health and safety in the workplace.

**Collating evidence:** To collate evidence regarding RIDDOR limitations by circulating a survey for the Baker's Union to send to their members (and other unions).

### Bakers Asthma

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- **Long-term campaign objective:** A reduction in the maximum exposure limit for flour and increased surveillance and enforcement by the Health and Safety Executive.
- **Strategy:** To raise awareness of the problems and prevalence of bakers' asthma within Parliament and outside organisations.

Bakers' Asthma is a key concern for the Group. The HSE estimate that bakers are approximately 80 times more likely to develop occupational asthma than other workers. The HSE also calculate that around 27,000 of the 100,000 workers in the British baking industry will regularly work with flour as an ingredient.

The Group wrote to Iain Duncan-Smith MP, Secretary of State at the DWP requesting a meeting to discuss this, and other issues, in July 2010. Following a response that indicated diary pressures would prevent a meeting the Group wrote to the HSE in October 2010 as directed by the Ministry. This in turn led to officials from the HSE attending the BFAWU Group meeting in November 2010. The meeting was constructive and the HSE officials confirmed that they were committed to reducing exposure to flour to as low as practically possible.

The Group has tabled EDM 632 Bakers and Asthma which has been signed by 36 MPs (Annex 1). The EDM notes that bakers are '80 times more likely to develop occupational asthma than the average worker' and goes on to call the Government to 'ensure that the Health and Safety Executive has sufficient resources' to enable them to tackle health issues such as bakers asthma.

The period ahead will be framed by the ongoing spending cuts being implemented by the Coalition Government. These proposed cuts will affect the HSE by 35% over the next four years. The Group will continue to campaign so that issues such as bakers' asthma remain on the Government's agenda in the face of deep spending reductions. In specific the Group will look towards an adjournment debate to ensure that MPs have an opportunity to fully debate the issues involved.

- **Government Position:** Again due to the political direction of the post-May 2010 Government the Group has had no useful dialogue with the new administration. However, their likely position is that they would not support strengthening the legislation in anyway given their commitment to deregulation.
- **Labour Party Position:** The last Labour Government directed the HSE to invest some activity in raising awareness regarding bakers' asthma. Again, there may be opportunities to pressurise them to adapt a firmer and more progressive position now that they form the Opposition.

### Next Steps

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**Parliamentary Action:** Promote EDM 632, table further Parliamentary Questions and organise, where possible, oral interventions in the Chamber. In addition the Group will seek to build up a relationship with supportive MPs with sites in their constituencies to enable us to raise the issue directly in Parliament.

**Collating evidence:** The Group has collated a wealth of excellent evidence available regarding this issue (provided by the HSE).

### Trade Union Co-ordinating Group (TUCG)

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BFAWU was one of the founder members of the TUCG in 2008, along with FBU, NAPO, NUJ, PCS, POA, RMT and URTU. Within the last year the TUCG has increased its membership to ten unions, representing almost one million trade unionists, with the addition of the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the University and College Union (UCU). The TUCG Executive is now meeting more regularly and the high consistent level of General Secretary attendance clearly demonstrates that the TUCG is regarded as a useful vehicle and allows unions the opportunity to come together in a supportive atmosphere to share and coordinate strategy and campaigning perspectives.

### TUC

At the TUC in Manchester this year (2010) the TUCG produced and distributed a detailed campaign bulletin and held a full programme of well attended fringe meetings on:

- Anti-Cuts
- Health and Safety

- Pensions
- Public Services

Along with TU Rights over the past year these have continued to be the main focus of the TUCG campaigning work in Parliament and beyond.

Also for the first time the TUCG held a well-received fringe meeting at the 2011 Scottish TUC, in Ayr, which focused on the cuts. This meeting was entitled 'Public Services under Attack' and included speakers from PCS, POA, FBU and NUT. This meeting was not only successful in portraying the challenges which specific unions will be facing in the coming months but it also raised the profile and work which the TUCG does with its ten member unions. We hope to continue to participate with STUC and aim to increase our work and profile north of the border in the coming months.

### ***Anti-Cuts***

In coordinating resistance to the Government's austerity measures there have been two main areas of discussion within the TUCG: coordinated industrial action and building the anti-cuts campaign.

Following concerted pressure from TUCG unions and others the TUC has now begun discussions on coordinated industrial action, which are set to continue with PCS and the Education Unions leading the way. 30<sup>th</sup> June is set to be a key date and is expected to see the coordination of a number of union's disputes and campaigns. John Hendy QC has briefed the TUCG on the legal ramifications of coordinated action and the due legal process. The TUCG also had a significant impact in January of this year when we called for a demo at the Young Workers Conference in Manchester, which the TUC subsequently organised.

On building the anti-cuts campaign a number of different perspectives have emerged as the best way of the TUCG supplementing the campaigns that are already growing both locally and nationally – whether the TUCG is best placed to attempt to provide overall coordination of the various campaigns or whether a more diverse development needs to be maintained. The TUCG met with the main national campaigns at the end of 2010 and until 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011 was concentrating on maximising support for the TUC Demo. There are now plans for an event on the eve of TUC 2011 Congress and various proposals are being discussed as to how to progress the campaign after that.

### ***Health and Safety***

In October 2010 Lord Young published his proposals for the reform Health and Safety in the workplace. Titled '*Common Sense, Common Safety*', the report set out to cut the amount of workplace inspections alongside the government's announcement to cut the Health and Safety Executive budget by 35%. This report and the government's proposed reforms have led the TUCG and its member unions to make health and safety a key campaign focus with BFAWU at the forefront over the past year.

A Health and Safety Week of Action was held in March 2011. Several parliamentary actions took place during the week of action including numerous health and safety based parliamentary questions, several EDM's which raised different health and safety issues and a green card lobby of Parliament which saw over 100 trade union and campaigning organisation members attend a rally in the House of Commons. Several TUCG general secretaries addressed the rally including Ronnie Draper, with the aim of making MP's aware that cuts in the HSE budget would lead to a increase in the number of deaths and injuries in many more workplaces.

The TUCG also commissioned an independent poll which was carried out amongst full and part time workers. The poll showed that work related stress and illness were rising due to conditions in the workplace and a growing uncertainty regarding job security; workers showed they were concerned that harsh cuts to the HSE will see a steep increase in workplace incidents and possibly deaths. The announcement of the government's supposed reforms to the HSE as well as the worrying results from the independent poll have driven the TUCG to establish a health and safety working party which held its inaugural meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2011. This group will enable the TUCG member unions, as well as health and safety campaign groups, to work closely with supportive MPs to try and combat the government's attack on the HSE which will inevitably have a detrimental effect on workers throughout the country. To help build wider support and produce some independent research the campaign will be taken up by the Institute of Employment Rights.

### ***Pensions***

One of the biggest threats to public sector workers this year has been the government's proposal to change the indexation of public sector pensions and state benefits from R.P.I to the lower C.P.I rate. This will wipe £6 Billion off the pensions bill and see public sector workers contributing more to their pension, working for longer and receiving less in the end.

This is a move which the TUCG condemned and on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 the group held a meeting with union legal and pension officers. The meeting concluded that as there was not a viable challenge to the Governments' proposals through the legal system the campaign in Parliament assumed even more importance.

The group therefore sent letters to Ed Miliband MP, the Labour leader, and Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the TUC voicing our concerns at the lack of opposition from the shadow front bench on this issue. The Government's proposals will be introduced without a vote or debate. Therefore John McDonnell MP, on behalf of the TUCG, tabled an EDM 1625 'Prayer' (PENSIONS (S.I., 2011, No. 827) on March 17<sup>th</sup> calling for the order to be revoked. So far it has received 65 signatures from MPs. However the Government is unlikely to allow a debate since the main Opposition has not called for one. Further to this a Labour front bench supported EDM was tabled which merely indicated qualified opposition to the Government's plans – supposedly Labour would only introduce the change for 3 years!

### ***Trade Union Rights***

In October 2010 John McDonnell MP laid his 'Minor Errors' Private Members Bill in Parliament requesting that legal loopholes be abolished in balloting procedures which allow employers to use the courts to prevent lawful industrial action. An extensive lobby of Parliamentarians by the TUCG took place but unfortunately the bill only received 85 out of a necessary 102 supportive MP's which it needed to proceed, and consequently will not be debated again.

The Coalition Government is now indicating that it may consider toughening trade union laws, a move which has been supported by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Tory backbenchers have even floated proposals that the right to strike should be restricted in all emergency and transport services to a level of turnout in union ballots the equivalent of which in Parliamentary Elections would see only a handful of MPs returned. A TUCG meeting with John Hendy QC, key academics, the United Campaign and union legal officers took place at the end of May to discuss the current threat to trade unions and how to take the campaign forward. A number of actions were agreed:

- Meet with TULO to discuss input into the Labour Party Policy Review
- Full discussion of the proposals in the Jackson Report and response
- A parliamentary seminar to be held before summer recess to highlight the use by employers of migrant non-union labour to undercut existing pay agreements, terms and conditions.
- An early meeting of TUCG union press officers to discuss and plan a positive TU rights campaign within the media over the next six months.

## **Public Service Not Private Profit Campaign**

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The Public Services Not Private Profit (PSNPP) campaign is a cross-union campaign launched in March 2006 to defend public services against privatisation.

### ***Organising Meetings***

PSNPP has always aimed to create a genuinely grassroots movement in defence of public services and highlight the effects of privatisation and cuts on our local communities. Therefore organising meetings around the country is an important part of PSNPP's strategy. The various meetings have enjoyed the active support of local trades' councils, trade unions and community organisations and helped to link together different activists and struggles. Most recently we have organised a PSNPP/TUCG fringe meeting at STUC Congress entitled 'Public Services under Attack' on 19th April 2011. *Speakers included:* Bow Crow (RMT), Mark Serwotka (PCS), Alan Whitaker (UCU), and Matt Wrack (FBU) with Janice Godrich (PCS) chairing the meeting.

The campaign has also adopted an important role in supporting activists in local areas fighting cuts and highlighting the outsourcing and privatisation aspect of how the public sector will be dismantled. In addition to the contact base we have built up over the years, we have made contact with as many local anti-cuts campaigns as possible – advertising meetings (via the website and our contacts), helping them to make contact with a range of unions, offering speakers from the unions of the PSNPP to speak specifically on privatisation and providing materials. We have begun to email this contact base with a PSNPP Bulletin. This includes notices and reports of meetings, links to interesting articles and campaign.

### ***Website***

The website [www.publicnotprivate.org.uk](http://www.publicnotprivate.org.uk) provides a good focus for the campaign, linking together various trade union campaigns right across the public sector. More and more people are using the website as a resource to support their activism and it is the main point of contact for the group.

### ***Pamphlet***

The campaign has also supported local activity in providing local activists with economic analysis, information and arguments against both public sector cuts and privatisation. This has been important in filling the gap in common knowledge about the reality of what is actually occurring. Nevertheless, there is still a sizable absence in information as to privatisation and outsourcing in relation to the attacks on the public sector, and so the campaign is in the process of developing more resources for activists in this regard, including the possibility of a comprehensive pamphlet (updating the PSNPP pamphlet of 2006) surveying privatisation across the public sector.

# ANNEX ONE

## Early Day Motions

### EDM 441 Health and Safety

55 signatures

Anderson, David	Flynn, Paul	McDonnell, John
Barron, Kevin	Glindon, Mary	McGovern, Jim
Blenkinsop, Tom	Greatrex, Tom	McKinnell, Catherine
Brown, Russell	Green, Kate	Meale, Alan
Caton, Martin	Greenwood, Lilian	Morrice, Graeme
Clark, Katy	Griffith, Nia	Nandy, Lisa
Connarty, Michael	Gwynne, Andrew	Owen, Albert
Corbyn, Jeremy	Hamilton, David	Riordan, Linda
Crausby, David	Hancock, Mike	Ritchie, Margaret
Creasy, Stella	Hepburn, Stephen	Rotheram, Steve
Cryer, John	Hodgson, Sharon	Russell, Bob
Cunningham, Alex	Hopkins, Kelvin	Sharma, Virendra
Cunningham, Jim	Howarth, George	Sheridan, Jim
Davidson, Ian	Jackson, Glenda	Skinner, Dennis
Dobbin, Jim	Lavery, Ian	Walley, Joan
Durkan, Mark	Lazarowicz, Mark	Wicks, Malcolm
Edwards, Jonathan	Llwyd, Elfyn	Williams, Mark
Elliott, Julie	Lucas, Caroline	
Esterson, Bill	Mann, John	

That this House notes that according to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in 2008-09, 1.2 million people were suffering from an illness they believed was caused or made worse by their current or past work, 180 workers were killed at work and 131,895 other workplace injuries were reported; recognises that the real figures are likely to be much higher given that many work-related fatalities are filtered out from the HSE's headline statistics, that the number of occupational disease deaths each year is never published and that ill-health estimates miss entire categories of common occupational diseases and underestimate others; deeply regrets therefore that people are still dying, being seriously injured or made ill simply as a result of carrying out their day to day job often as a result of health and safety failings by employers; further notes the estimated cost of around 30 billion per year to the economy of poor workplace health and safety and that this burden is borne heavily by workers and their families; believes there is no evidence to support cutting back on health and safety regulation but instead that the current system of prevention and enforcement needs bolstering; reaffirms the right of all workers to work in a safe and healthy workplace; and therefore calls on the Government to reject calls for deregulation and instead look to strengthen the current legislative framework and ensure that the HSE is adequately resourced in order to stop more people dying or receiving injuries unnecessarily.

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### EDM 630 Maximum Working Temperature

47 signatures

Anderson, David	Campbell, Ronnie	Coaker, Vernon
Blenkinsop, Tom	Caton, Martin	Cooper, Rosie
Bottomley, Peter	Clark, Katy	Corbyn, Jeremy

**Simeon Andrews**  
**BFAWU Group Coordinator**

Crausby, David  
Cryer, John  
Dobbin, Jim  
Durkan, Mark  
Edwards, Jonathan  
Engel, Natascha  
Flynn, Paul  
Glendon, Mary  
Goodman, Helen  
Hamilton, David  
Havard, Dai  
Hilling, Julie  
Hopkins, Kelvin

Lavery, Ian  
Lazarowicz, Mark  
Llwyd, Elfyn  
Lucas, Caroline  
Marsden, Gordon  
McCarthy, Kerry  
McCrea, Dr William  
McDonnell, Alasdair  
McDonnell, John  
McGovern, Jim  
Meale, Alan  
Nandy, Lisa  
Nash, Pamela

Qureshi, Yasmin  
Riordan, Linda  
Rotheram, Steve  
Russell, Bob  
Sharma, Virendra  
Shuker, Gavin  
Skinner, Dennis  
Slaughter, Andy  
Vaz, Valerie  
Williams, Hywel  
Williams, Stephen  
Wood, Mike

That this House notes that whilst there is a legal minimum workplace indoor temperature there is no clear legal maximum workplace temperature so that conditions can vary greatly from employer to employer; further notes that many employees, particularly those working in bakeries, are often subjected to very high temperatures which can impact seriously on their health and well-being, with effects ranging from discomfort, stress, irritability and headaches, to extra strain on the heart and lungs, dizziness and fainting and heat cramps due to loss of water and salt; and urges the Government to provide clear and coherent guidelines to employers about how to combat heat in the workplace and to introduce a maximum working workplace temperature of 30C (86F) and of 27C (81F) for those doing strenuous work.

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### **EDM 631 Below Cost Selling**

33 signatures

Anderson, David  
Berger, Luciana  
Blenkinsop, Tom  
Campbell, Gregory  
Campbell, Ronnie  
Caton, Martin  
Clark, Katy  
Corbyn, Jeremy  
Crausby, David  
Cryer, John  
Dobbin, Jim

Durkan, Mark  
Edwards, Jonathan  
Flynn, Paul  
Gwynne, Andrew  
Hamilton, David  
Havard, Dai  
Hilling, Julie  
Hopkins, Kelvin  
Jones, Graham  
Lavery, Ian  
Lazarowicz, Mark

Llwyd, Elfyn  
McCrea, Dr William  
McDonnell, Alasdair  
McDonnell, John  
McGovern, Jim  
Meale, Alan  
Mitchell, Austin  
Russell, Bob  
Sharma, Virendra  
Williams, Stephen  
Wood, Mike

That this House notes the negative impact of below-cost selling in the food industry on a whole range of issues, from employment conditions and consumer choice to animal welfare and the maintenance of the UK producer base; is concerned at retailers demanding high levels of discounting disproportionate to production costs and attempting to shift costs to manufacturers and growers both locally and internationally; and therefore supports the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union, representing many of those working in the food industry in the UK, in its call for greater regulation to tackle the unfair advantages of big retailers in order to protect employment conditions within the food industry and the diversity of small manufacturers and producers.

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**BFAWU Group Coordinator**  
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### **EDM 632 Bakers Asthma**

36 signatures

Anderson, David	Durkan, Mark	Llwyd, Elfyn
Begg, Anne	Edwards, Jonathan	McCrea, Dr William
Berger, Luciana	Flynn, Paul	McDonnell, Alasdair
Blenkinsop, Tom	Goodman, Helen	McDonnell, John
Bottomley, Peter	Hamilton, David	Meale, Alan
Campbell, Gregory	Hancock, Mike	Russell, Bob
Campbell, Ronnie	Havard, Dai	Skinner, Dennis
Caton, Martin	Hemming, John	Stringer, Graham
Clark, Katy	Hilling, Julie	Trickett, Jon
Corbyn, Jeremy	Hood, Jim	Williams, Roger
Crausby, David	Hopkins, Kelvin	Wood, Mike
Cryer, John	Lavery, Ian	
Dobbin, Jim	Lazarowicz, Mark	

That this House notes with concern that bakers are about 80 times more likely to develop occupational asthma than the average worker due to exposure to flour and other bakery dusts; believes that every worker has the right to work in a healthy and safe workplace and is extremely alarmed that thousands of bakers could be at risk of developing an incapacitating respiratory condition; urges employers to work with health and safety trades union representatives and the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union to implement appropriate control measures to protect bakers from developing asthma; and further urges the Government to ensure that the Health and Safety Executive has sufficient resources to take the necessary action to prevent work-related illnesses such as bakers' asthma.

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### **EDM 1302 Health and Safety Week of Action**

59 signatures

Barron, Kevin	Esterson, Bill	McDonagh, Siobhain
Blenkinsop, Tom	Field, Frank	McDonnell, Alasdair
Burden, Richard	Flynn, Paul	McDonnell, John
Campbell, Gregory	Francis, Hywel	Meale, Alan
Campbell, Ronnie	Gapes, Mike	Morrice, Graeme
Caton, Martin	Gardiner, Barry	Morris, Grahame M
Clark, Katy	Green, Kate	Murray, Ian
Corbyn, Jeremy	Hancock, Mike	Nandy, Lisa
Crausby, David	Harris, Tom	Owen, Albert
Creasy, Stella	Hepburn, Stephen	Riordan, Linda
Cruddas, Jon	Hermon, Lady	Ritchie, Margaret
Cryer, John	Hodge, Margaret	Ruddock, Joan
Dakin, Nic	Hopkins, Kelvin	Russell, Bob
Dobbin, Jim	Howarth, George	Shannon, Jim
Doran, Frank	Jackson, Glenda	Sharma, Virendra
Durkan, Mark	Lavery, Ian	Skinner, Dennis
Edwards, Jonathan	Leech, John	Vaz, Keith
Ellman, Louise	Lloyd, Tony	Vaz, Valerie
Engel, Natascha	McCrea, Dr William	Ward, David

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Watts, Dave

Williams, Hywel

That this House is alarmed to note that, according to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), between April 2009 and March 2010, 152 people were fatally injured at work, 26,061 suffered major injuries at work and 1.3 million people who worked during the last year were suffering from an illness believed to be caused or made worse by their current or past work; notes that the actual figures are likely to be much higher, given that these statistics are an underestimate due to reporting inadequacies and that prosecutions and convictions for health and safety breaches were at a record low; is concerned that the current legislative and enforcement framework is failing to protect workers and that the Government's proposals contained in the Young Report, along with the budget cuts of 35 per cent. facing the HSE, not only fail to address the problem but will make things worse; and therefore welcomes the lobby of Parliament organised by the Trade Union Co-ordinating Group, comprising the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union, the Fire Brigades Union, the National Association of Probation Officers, the National Union of Journalists, the National Union of Teachers, the Public and Commercial Services Union, the Prison Officers Association, the Rail and Maritime Transport Union, the University and College Union and the United Road Transport Union on 2 March 2011 and that group's Health and Safety Week of Action between 28 February and 5 March 2011, calling on the Government to tighten legislation and improve enforcement to prevent anymore workplace tragedies.

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#### **EDM 1488 Health and Safety in the Food Industry**

32 signatures

Campbell, Gregory  
Campbell, Ronnie  
Clark, Katy  
Corbyn, Jeremy  
Crausby, David  
Cryer, John  
Cunningham, Jim  
Dobbin, Jim  
Doran, Frank  
Durkan, Mark  
Flynn, Paul

Glendon, Mary  
Hancock, Mike  
Hepburn, Stephen  
Hopkins, Kelvin  
Lloyd, Tony  
Llwyd, Elfyn  
McCrea, Dr William  
McDonnell, Alasdair  
McDonnell, John  
McGovern, Jim  
Meale, Alan

Murphy, Paul  
Osborne, Sandra  
Pearce, Teresa  
Riordan, Linda  
Ritchie, Margaret  
Russell, Bob  
Shannon, Jim  
Singh, Marsha  
Skinner, Dennis  
Wood, Mike

That this House notes that health and safety in the food industry is important for the workforce and the consumer; believes that working with hot ovens in baking premises can be hazardous due to the heat levels involved which can cause stress, irritability, heat cramps and strain on the heart and lungs; further believes that there should be a maximum workplace temperature at which companies would have to take measures to make working more tolerable; further notes that this is not the only hazard facing workers in the food industry; further notes that Lord Young's review of health and safety recommended a consultation on the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations; further believes that this should be an opportunity to improve health and safety in the workplace rather than allow companies to downgrade their obligations to their workforces; further notes that bakers' asthma remains a danger for many in the food industry; and calls on the Government to ensure

**Simeon Andrews**  
**BFAWU Group Coordinator**  
[andrewss@parliament.uk](mailto:andrewss@parliament.uk) / 0207 219 1626

that the Health and Safety Executive is properly resourced to maintain and improve health and safety in the workplace.

## **ANNEX TWO**

### **List of Group Members May 2011**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Party</b>
Dave Anderson MP	Blaydon	Labour
Anne Begg MP	Aberdeen South	Labour
Joe Benton MP	Bootle	Labour
Katy Clark MP	North Ayrshire and Arran	Labour
Jeremy Corbyn MP	Islington North	Labour
David Crasby MP	Bolton North East	Labour
Mary Creagh MP	Wakefield	Labour
John Cryer MP	Leyton and Wanstead	Labour
Jonathan Edwards MP	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	Plaid Cymru
Natascha Engel MP	Derbyshire North East	Labour
John Healey MP	Wentworth and Dearne	Labour
Julie Hilling MP	Bolton West	Labour
Kate Hoey MP	Vauxhall	Labour
Kelvin Hopkins MP	Luton North	Labour
Ian Lavery MP	Wansbeck	Labour
Gordon Marsden MP	Blackpool South	Labour
John McDonnell MP	Hayes and Harlington	Labour
Anne McGuire MP	Stirling	Labour
Catherine McKinnell MP	Newcastle Upon Tyne North	Labour
Austin Mitchell MP	Great Grimsby	Labour
Paul Murphy MP	Torfaen	Labour
Theresa Pearce MP	Erith and Thamesmead	Labour
Linda Riordan MP	Halifax	Labour
Valerie Vaz MP	Walsall South	Labour
Mike Wood MP	Batley and Spen	Labour
Lord McKenzie of Luton		Labour