



KL/SW

16th March 2020

Mr Humza Yousaf MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Justice
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

By email

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Arrangements for the safe transportation of prisoners with COVID-19

GMB Scotland members working on the Scottish prison escort contract operated by GEOAMEY have brought to our attention their concerns that they are being required to move prisoners suffering from COVID-19 (Coronavirus) without sufficient appropriate personal protective equipment, or adequate risk assessment.

We are aware that members refused today to move prisoners from Cathcart Police Office, which is known to be used for isolation purposes, to attend court and as a consequence prison escorts have been told by GEOAMEY that they will be dealt with. This is in our view a clear breach of the relevant, 1999, Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations which provide protections for workers who desist from a task which they might reasonably consider to be dangerous to their health.

Given the unique and emergency circumstances in which we all find ourselves I would be grateful if you could instruct the contractor to drop disciplinary action against any of their employees who are raising legitimate health and safety concerns. I would be further grateful if you would invite GEOAMEY and the Scottish Prison Service to immediately engage with GMB Scotland to ensure that we can agree arrangements which will keep our members safe whilst they do remain at work.

Cont/d...

Yours sincerely



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GMB SCOTLAND – PROTECTING YOU AT WORK

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