



Taylor Review of modern working practices

Consultation on agency workers recommendations - Response

We have had the advantage of seeing the responses to this consultation prepared by the TUC and the law firm Thompsons. We endorse and adopt the responses prepared and submitted by those organisations.

In relation to the answer to question 6, we also offer the following example:

We are aware of agency workers carrying out track maintenance on the UK rail network (an environment and set of duties which are safety critical) experiencing problems when engaged via umbrella companies/ intermediaries. Specifically, members of the union have been required to attend at depots at short notice (suffering penalties when they decline). Further they have been hired at rates advertised at significantly above the sums which they in fact receive – due to spurious payroll deductions.

In relation to the answer to question 9, we also offer the following example:

We believe that railway employers are increasingly using agencies, in order to casualise the workforce, prepare for job cuts, and undermine our power to take effective strike action. For example, our Hull Rail Branch alerted us to the use by the Yorkshire area of irregular practices by an agency called
Specifically, this organisation used the “Swedish Derogation”
model for agency staff whom they were training to be Revenue Protection workers.

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