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Dear Matt

Thank you for your letter of 24 April in which you informed me of the decision of the Executive Council to call further industrial action.

As you can imagine, I was extremely disappointed to receive this during a period of positive and progressive discussion. In choosing to take its members out on unnecessary strike action the Executive Council has signalled clearly that it has no desire to progress the proposals we were considering and has effectively drawn that discussion to a close.

As you will expect, our focus will now be on implementing the Proposed Final Agreement in time to take effect from 1 April 2015.

BRANDON LEWIS MP