



19 December, 2014

Re: London Living Wage

Dear Ms. Diamond,

I am writing to you, in my capacity as President of the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain (IWGB), on behalf of the cleaners employed by Mitie at the Highbury Corner Magistrate's court.

As you are aware, cleaners on this contract currently earn £6.50 per hour, the national minimum wage. As a growing consensus of Londoners accept, the minimum wage simply is not enough to live on. I am therefore writing to request that the Mitie and/or the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court take immediate action to implement at least a minimum of the London Living Wage (£9.15) for all Mitie workers at the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court.

If the London Living Wage is not implemented with immediate effect, the workers at the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court are prepared to wage a high profile London Living Wage campaign. These workers will have the full support of the IWGB for this campaign.

Whilst by far the easiest solution would be for Mitie to engage the client and agree an immediate implementation of the London Living Wage, I would like to take this opportunity to be very clear about what will happen if the London Living Wage is not implemented. Among others, the following list of campaign tactics have proved successful in the past and will likely be used to win the London Living Wage at the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court:

1. Leafleting outside the court to raise awareness among the magistrates, employees, and visitors about the fact that the cleaners at the court are earning poverty wages;
2. Loud and disruptive protests, both at the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court and at other key Mitie locations;
3. Promoting awareness on social media, in particular Facebook and twitter;
4. Launching a website where campaign followers and participants can follow the latest news on the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court;
5. Campaign videos with interviews from workers as well as prominent supporters;
6. Write to Mitie clients throughout London to inform them of the reputational risk to their businesses of contracting with Mitie given the likelihood that this leads to public and high profile campaigns;
7. Circulate press releases and work to obtain mainstream press coverage.

I assume that you and your colleagues at Mitie will be familiar with the IWGB and the campaigns this union has waged. However lest you have any doubts about the union's track record on waging and winning living wage and other campaigns, it might be worth your while to peruse the union website (<http://iwgb.org.uk/>) and the history and press coverage of the 3 Cosas Campaign at the University of London (<http://3cosascampaign.wordpress.com/press-reports/>).

In closing, I would advise that Mitie not question the determination of the IWGB to achieve justice at the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. There is nothing that the union treats with more seriousness and urgency than achieving improved wages, terms, and conditions for its members.

The workers at the Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, and the IWGB more generally, look forward to receiving your response.

Kind regards,

Jason Moyer-Lee
President
IWGB