

PAT RAFFERTY – e-Mail of 19th April 2016

Dear Mr Gregson

I was surprised to receive your email threatening to denounce Unite to the Scottish media if we do not back your whistle-blower campaign.

As we indicated to you last week, Unite's support for any campaigns organised by third parties can only be given once we have undertaken the due diligence expected by our members.

We have therefore consulted very quickly on your proposal and as a result I understand that there are some concerns as to the model you propose. These concerns need to be addressed and considered properly by the appropriate bodies within Unite.

We also understand that Unison, your own union, does not support your proposal. Having clarified their position with them, they have advised us that they have provided evidence to the Scottish Parliament supporting the principle of an independent line, however, you should be aware that the combined unions who operate within the health sector agreed, in the proper forum, that we should give the current system an opportunity to function before advocating an alternative.

We have advised you further that in order to be compliant with the law the £500 you have received from your local branch of Unite may require to be classified as spending from our political fund. This has potential legal consequences that should have been discussed with the Regional Political Officer prior to approval.

We note that you are not a Unite member. Ordinarily we would ask you to submit a proper proposal to the Union for these monies and support, identifying how your proposal is in keeping with Unite policy and would benefit this union's members.

Given all I set about above, it would be premature for Unite to make an instant and uninformed decision to support the measure you propose.

It is very regrettable that you have chosen to write to the union in such aggressive terms, but it is also extremely puzzling as it is not in keeping with the collegiate way this movement seeks to work on such campaigns.

I hope that you will reconsider your approach as it would seem counter-productive to your efforts to build an alliance in support of this campaign and it will require Unite to publicly clarify our considered position.

Regards

Pat Rafferty

Regional Secretary Scotland

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