

VC Letter: Time for Rights



Dear Vice Chancellor,

We are calling on [YOUR INSTITUTION] to guarantee the protections outlined in the Working Time Directive for all their workers, even if they're removed or diluted in law post-Brexit.

The EU has long been a strong advocate for workers' rights, including the Working Time Directive, which includes the right to at least four weeks holiday per year, rest breaks, restricts excessive night shifts and ensures a maximum 48-hour working week.

The Tories initially blocked the Working Time Directive in 1993 and rejected EU employment laws in a parliamentary vote in January 2018. The Tories' Brexit Secretary, Dominic Raab, has specifically criticised the Working Time Directive, claiming that "Britain should secure a total opt out" from the legislation.

With the rising cost of living forcing more students to take on work while at university, students and other low-paid workers are becoming increasingly exploited, particularly those on insecure contracts. It has never been more important for [YOUR INSTITUTION] to protect its workers.

Many organisations pay their staff the real Living Wage, despite this not being a legal requirement. Currently, EU workers' rights legislation – including the Working Time Directive – applies to UK workers. These rights are at risk from the Tories' Brexit, and therefore – like with the real Living Wage – Student Unions must take proactive steps to protect workers on campus.

We are therefore calling for [YOUR INSTITUTION] to guarantee the protections outlined in the Working Time Directive for its workers, even if they're removed or diluted in law post-Brexit.

Together we can defend workers from a Tory hard-Brexit.

Signed,

[LIST OF NAMES AND ORGANISATIONS WHO SIGNED THE PETITION, WHICH COVERED BOTH YOUR STUDENTS UNION AND YOUR INSTITUTION]

