

General statement

The union campaign is not about helping more disabled people into employment; nor is it about redundancies. We have given a firm commitment that none of our disabled employees will be made compulsorily redundant.

In fact our modernisation proposals mean that within five years Remploy will quadruple the number of jobs we find for disabled people - that is 20,000 jobs each and every year.

The unions' interest is only in maintaining loss-making factories which cost the taxpayer millions of pounds each year. This would prevent us from helping thousands more disabled people into employment each year.

The response from the unions to these plans has been to threaten a strike. It must be the first strike in history against a company that was trying to create thousands of jobs.

We get our funding from the Government and Ministers have told us that Remploy has to change. The status quo is not an option.

If the unions got their way, and Remploy did not modernise, over the next five years more than 40,000 disabled people would continue on benefit rather than enjoying the benefits of a satisfying and rewarding job.

Our proposals will allow us to transfer resources from factories into finding more jobs for disabled people in mainstream employment.

Every time we place a disabled person in a job with another company there is a one-off cost of just over £5,000, while each job in our factories costs on average £20,000 every year. The equation is simple – for the cost of one job in our factories we can place four people into jobs in mainstream employment.

We know that, with the right training, job preparation and support, almost all of our employees can work in other companies, and we are already talking to charities and social organisations to find meaningful work, in a more supportive environment, for those who need this.

Every disabled employee will have the support they need for as long as they need it.