



Neil Garratt AM
Chairman of the Economy Committee

The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
(by email)

25 March 2022

Dear Mr Kwarteng,

Employment bill and the gig economy

I am writing to you on behalf of the London Assembly Economy Committee regarding the gig economy and the introduction of an employment bill. This follows our recent investigation into the gig economy, where we set out to understand the benefits of and problems with London's gig economy and the implications of the employment status, pay and conditions of gig economy workers.

One area discussed at the meeting was the Taylor Review into Modern Working Practices and a prospective employment bill. As you know, the Government-commissioned Taylor Review into Modern Working Practices recommended in 2017 that gig economy workers should be classified as 'dependent contractors', which would sit between fully employed and self-employed status. This would entitle some gig economy workers to the National Minimum Wage and other workers' rights. The Government consulted on this recommendation but has not implemented any related reforms to date.

The 2019 Queen's Speech included a commitment to introduce an employment bill, which would 'build on existing employment law with measures that protect those in low-paid work and the gig

economy'. However, a bill has not yet been introduced and was not included in the 2021 Queen's Speech.

Guests at the Committee meeting expressed strong support for the Government introducing an employment bill which would enshrine protections for gig economy workers. The Economy Committee supports this view and urges you to bring forward an employment bill which sets out a clear definition of the gig economy and includes those recommendations the Government has accepted from the Taylor review. We would also like the Government to set out a clear timetable for the introduction and passing of the bill.

The Committee would welcome a response to this letter by 29 April 2022. Please send your response by email to the Committee's clerk, Lauren Harvey (lauren.harvey@london.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Garratt', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Neil Garratt AM

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