

CHI ONWURAH MP
Newcastle upon Tyne Central

25, 7-15 Pink Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5DW
Tel: (0191) 232 5838
Email: chi.onwurah.mp@parliament.uk
Twitter: ChiOnwurah

Our ref: co/tb/v/warsi-unite

The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi
Minister without Portfolio
House of Commons
Westminster, London SW1A 0AA

9 May 2012

Dear Baroness Warsi

I read with increasing astonishment your recent letter in which you suggest I demand my constituency party break off relations with Unite.

At a time when the prime minister is embroiled in the cash for kitchen suppliers scandal and DCMS is widely known as the Ministry for Murdoch you choose to attack my CLP's engagement with the two thousand hard working men and women in Newcastle Central who are members of Unite.

The £1500 Unite donates to Newcastle Central CLP works out at 75p per Unite member and helps the CLP work with them in such areas as voter registration, democratic engagement and increasing awareness and understanding of the political system.

Your party prefers to take large donations from a small number of rich individuals who can fit easily round the kitchen supper table at No 10.

Given the Government's recent farcical handling of the supposed fuel strike I am surprised you are again raising the matter in such a divisive way.

The proposed industrial action to which you refer is principally motivated by health and safety concerns, not salary as you imply. As your Government continues to undermine employee rights, health & safety concerns are, regrettably, likely to grow.

I hope your Government can effectively engage with the working men and women concerned to allay these fears, rather than stoking resentment with divisive messages.

Regards

Chi Onwurah
Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central