

**Bilfinger Offshore Branch SC/156**

# **Update**



***Your Industry  
Your Union  
Your Future***

## **Unite on the Culzean Hook up**

As mobilisation to the Culzean gathers pace we need to hear from members and workers now.

Help us get this right from the start by giving us your views today.

Perhaps you have complaints about the accommodation? For example you might have concerns about limited Wifi availability or access to phones to stay in touch with family and friends.

Alternatively you may have issues being paid for time spent training and/or time spent on Standby ahead of mobilisation?

Additionally, you may want to consider whether or not you are satisfied with the production bonuses (if any) you are being offered to deliver.

Whatever your concerns are we need to hear from you now. Please take 5 mins to give us your views by clicking this link:

[Click here to fill out survey \(or scan the QR code overleaf\)](#)

**Join Unite Today**

**<http://www.unitetheunion.org/growing-our-union/joinunite/>**



## **Update on the Unite Pay Claim for 2018/19**

The consultative ballot on what members are willing to do to combat the imposition of a 2.15% rise for 2018/19 is now closed and the results are in.

**Turnout—69%**

Those in favour of taking action in support of a substantial pay rise for 2018/19—93%

## **Next Steps**

We have now contacted Bilfinger seeking an urgent meeting. Our message is clear: Our members will not accept a race to the bottom on pay.

**Get Active, Get Organised  
and, above all, GET  
INVOLVED**

**Join Unite  
Today**

# Is the threat of blacklisting or “NRB” - Not Required Back—rearing its ugly head on the Culzean?



Unite has been getting reports that Unite members are being openly threatened with having their names put on a NRB list if they don't tow the line on the Culzean.

Have you heard such threats? If so, you NEED to let us know today.

## 30 years on - Piper Alpha remembered

06 July 2018

Pat Rafferty—Unite Scottish Secretary

The 6 July 1988 was the day that the lives of so many people changed forever when a series of explosions on board the Piper Alpha platform killed 167 workers in the North Sea.

The tragedy, which Lord Cullen blamed on inadequate maintenance and safety procedures by the operator Occidental, should have led to significant changes in the oil and gas sector that would protect workers in the future and make the industry safer.

Instead 30 years on, we have witnessed an industry that is driven increasingly by cost reductions, with corners and jobs being cut to save money.

What is more disgraceful is that we now know that Piper Alpha could have been avoided. The accident was caused by cost-driven decisions. And when costs become more important than safety, Piper Alpha shows that the result can be catastrophic.

Unite remembers those that were lost on Piper Alpha. They serve as a reminder that corners must never be cut and that the job done by workers in the North Sea is one of the most dangerous around. But we also remember those that were left.

Someone whose life changed that day and who had direct experience of the tragedy is Brian James. This is not his real name. He didn't want to use his real name for fear of being blacklisted under Not Required Back (NRB). This is where workers who raise issues around health and safety find there is no more work for them. This fear of speaking out is another damning indictment of the culture which still exists and shows employers have learned little from Lord Cullen's report.

As a young man just starting his career offshore, Brian was working on the Sedco Semi Sub Drilling Unit the night tragedy struck. He recalls radio communications coming out over the airwave channels and everyone tuned in to listen for updates on Piper Alpha and this still haunts him.

He can recall friends lost. His own neighbour lost her husband which left their children without a father. Partners, husbands, fathers, grandfathers and brothers, all lost. The tragedy has left a lasting legacy affecting generations.

The sad thing is he believes it could happen again. Brian speaks about a lack of communication in the industry today. Of low morale and the intense work pressures that are leading to safety critical work being missed.

The loss of so many experienced workers; some who died that day, others who have left the industry either through redundancy or because they are disillusioned about the way the industry is going has created a tier of workers with less experience of dealing with the everyday pressures of such a safety critical and harsh industry.

The recent introduction of three-weeks on and three-weeks off shift rotas will only add to the pressures on workers. A recent report by Robert Gordon University for the Offshore Contractors Association (OCA) highlights the mental and physical exhaustion felt by those on the newer three-week shifts. It also raised concerns about the impact on workers' wellbeing, and blamed the change for making health issues worse.

We must never forget the lessons of Piper Alpha, but 30 years on we should have learned something and it doesn't look like offshore employers have.

Workers Memorial Day has a strapline. It is 'remember the dead, fight for the living'. We do remember, we will never forget, but we must also continue the fight to make sure the offshore industry is as safe as it can possibly be to ensure workers can return home at the end of their shift.

**Let Unite know what is happening on the Culzean Today: Scan this code now**



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