

Unite Media Release

For Immediate Use –18 October

Unite seeks urgent talks over ‘downmanning’ of Bilfinger trade union at Culzean

Unite the union has today (18 October) requested urgent talks regarding the treatment of elected trade union representatives for Bilfinger on the Culzean offshore hook-up project. Unite representatives were scheduled to report for pre-mobilisation training ahead of the normal three week rotation on the Culzean. However, the day before travel the representatives were informed that Total had requested they be ‘down-manned’ from the Culzean.



The Unite representatives had raised a range of concerns on the Culzean including a claim for bonus. Last week, a consultative ballot showed 100 per cent support for industrial action on a turnout of 81 per cent in pursuit of a fair bonus scheme. An internal investigation at Bilfinger is also pending following Unite raising concerns about members being allegedly threatened with Not Required Back (NRB).

Unite Regional Officer, Tommy Campbell, said:

“We are extremely suspicious about the motives behind the decision to effectively remove our elected representatives from the Culzean project and to put them on a weeks’ notice. The representatives had supported Bilfinger workers to speak up about alleged threats of “NRB” and bullying. As a result of their willingness to stand up for hundreds of workers to demand fair treatment at work and to support a reasonable bonus claim, it appears that they are being singled out and removed from the project. Unite is now deeply concerned that our representatives are being openly targeted on the Culzean offshore project and we are seeking urgent talks to clarify the position.”

ENDS

Next Steps

Unite Officials are to meet with Bilfinger early the week beginning 22nd October 2018 regarding these issues.

Following this meeting a decision on appropriate next steps will be taken. More to follow ASAP.

