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Elverys Sports Update

ELVERYS STAFF LEFT IN DARK OVER BUYOUT

Revelations that management at Elverys Sports are putting in place a 'pre-pack' receivership is a worrying development for staff at the company whose jobs and terms and conditions of employment are now uncertain.

The company announced last Friday that a receiver was being appointed and that the business would be sold to a group of managers. However, new claims have emerged that other parties are interested in the business including the billionaire owner of Newcastle United Football Club Mike Ashley and Lifestyle Sports.

Mandate Trade Union, which represents workers in Elverys say that whatever the future is for the company, the workers will be best protected by being members of their union.

"Whoever the new owner of Elverys will be, whether Mike Ashley, Lifestyle Sports or the current management at Elverys, the priority for the company will be to maximise profits in whatever way they can," said Gerry Light, Mandate Assistant General

Secretary.

"If any new owner puts in millions to buy out the company, they'll want a significant return on that investment and what we're saying is that it won't be the workers who have to shoulder that burden."

Mr Light pointed out that workers in the retail sector are almost always overlooked when it comes to the receivership process.

"Over the past number of years, we've seen a number of strategic receiverships take place in the retail sector. They're often used to drive down costs including rents and even labour costs. There's no doubt that this is a stressful time for workers, particularly those who have no access to professional representation," he said.

"Workers want to know what the implications are for them and they want an end to all this uncertainty. They are, after all, one of the key stakeholders in the



business and may become the casualty in a corporate game of chess. There's a chance some workers may lose their jobs and have to seek compensation from the State's insolvency fund. They may also have their conditions of employment challenged by their new owner and if that happens, the best way to protect their livelihoods is by being united as members of Mandate Trade Union," concluded Mr Light.

Mandate has set up a special phone line for any concerned Elverys workers. If you work at Elverys and are concerned about the current situation please call 01 8746321 or email info@mandate.ie

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