

COPY OF EMAIL RECEIVED BY UNION ON TUESDAY 29TH JUNE 2021

Hi Gerry

This was forward on to us.

Debenhams Workers €3m Oversight Fund
For the Attention of the National Executive of MANDATE

We have recently been informed of the composition of the Oversight Group for the €3m Fund agreed at the conclusion of our dispute. We welcome the fact that Solas has accepted that our 5 nominated reps be members of the group.

We note also that the union has nominated the former General Secretary, Mr John Douglas, to the group. We have to say we are somewhat surprised by this.

Firstly, we believe that it would have been better to consult with the representatives of the workers before such a nomination was made. We are still members of the union and are acting on behalf of all the workers who will seek to benefit from the Fund. We believe we are entitled to be consulted before such a nomination was made. Further, there is a widespread perception among the workers that Mr Douglas did not provide adequate support to our dispute. Early and robust action in support of our cause may have shortened the dispute and led to a more satisfactory outcome for the workers. We believe somebody should be nominated who has the support and confidence of the workers.

Secondly, Mr Douglas is now retired. This poses a serious question as to how he will be held accountable for his activities as part of the committee. As we understand it there is nothing MANDATE or we, as shop stewards representing the workers, could do if he was to agree to something or take a position not in the best interest of the workers. It would be preferable that an official currently in the employment of the union and who is accountable to the union be nominated to this group.

In light of these issues, we are now requesting a meeting to discuss the appointment of a nominee who is acceptable to the workers and who will be accountable to their representatives and the union.

We look forward to an immediate reply.

Regards.

The 5 members on the committee and the rest of the ex debenhams shop stewards.