MANDATE
TRADE UNION

By: Registered Post

30th September 2022

Mr. Martin White
Store Manager
Dunnes Stores
4 West Street
Drogheda
Co. Louth
A92 RK66

Re: Health & Safety – Inadequate Lighting

Dear Mr. White

Further to a recent meeting of the Mandate Members employed in Dunnes Stores, West Street, Drogheda, the undersigned has been requested to formally raise, on our members behalf, a Health & Safety concern they have with regard to inadequate lighting in areas of the Store.

Mandate have been informed that the lights on the staff stairwell are constantly being turned off or dimmed which is making their entrance/exit to the building unsafe. It has been explained to the undersigned that there is no light switch at the bottom of the stairwell and that if the lights are switched off, which has happened on numerous occasions, that a member entering the bottom of the stairwell, has to walk a full flight of stairs in the dark, which is obviously a risk to their personal Health & Safety in the workplace.

Similarly, upon exiting the building in the evening, our members have reported that the lights have to be switched off on the stairwell and given the fact that the final light switch is located outside the locker rooms, our members have to walk the final flight of stairs in the dark.

Furthermore, the lighting in the Storeroom has been described to the undersigned as being inadequate, as certain lights are constantly being turned off or dimmed by Management, thus creating an unacceptable risk to our members who have to enter the area.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007, Part 1, Section 8 with regard to lighting clearly states the following:

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General Secretary: Gerry Light
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Natural and artificial lighting.

8. An employer shall ensure that—

(a) places of work receive, as far as possible, sufficient natural light and are equipped with artificial lighting adequate for the protection of the safety and health of the employer's employees,

(b) lighting installations in rooms containing workstations and in passageways are placed in such a way that there is no risk of accident to the employer's employees as a result of the type of lighting fitted, and

(c) places of work in which the employer's employees are especially exposed to risks in the event of failure of artificial lighting are provided with emergency lighting of adequate intensity.

One can only assume that the rational and reasoning behind the lighting situation in the store is a cost saving initiative by the Company, however Mandate insist that our member's health and safety in the workplace must take precedence over cost saving.

Mandate are calling on Local Management to immediately put in place measures to ensure that the above lighting issues are addressed to our members satisfaction. Failure to do so and inform the undersigned, by return, of the measures put in place by Management, will leave the undersigned with no alternative but to report the matter to the Health & Safety Authority citing the absence of adequate lighting, which is described as essential on the HSA website, as the basis for our complaint.

I look forward to your positive and immediate response.

Yours sincerely

Keith Pollard
Divisional Organiser.
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KP/AM: