



Work and Pensions Committee

14 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NB

Tel 020 7219 5831 Email workpencom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/workpencom

From the Chair

7 March 2017

Dwain McDonald
CEO, DPD UK Ltd

Dwain McDonald

Self-employment and the gig economy inquiry

The Work and Pensions Committee is currently carrying out an inquiry on self-employment. Our evidence sessions on 8th February and 22nd February heard from self-employed couriers and some of the companies that they work for.

In light of these sessions and recent media reports, the Committee for DPD:

1. A report in the Guardian on 3rd March 2017 stated that DPD's self-employed couriers are required to pay a charge of £150 if they are unable to work on a given day and cannot arrange cover.¹ Can you please explain what the legal basis of this policy is?
2. Please could you confirm what DPD would expect the average loss to a courier to be per day not worked, taking into account both lost earnings and the charge;
3. Please could you supply data on the proportion of courier rounds each week that are covered by a substitute courier, and what proportion of these are covered by a) a substitute identified by the courier and b) by DPD, after levying the £150 charge.

Please could you also supply, in line with your competitors:

4. A copy of DPD's contract for self-employed couriers;
5. Details of the costs that DPD couriers are expected to meet (eg. fuel, vehicles, vehicle maintenance and insurance, uniforms) and how these are split between DPD and the courier;

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/mar/03/sick-dpd-couriers-face-150-charge-if-unable-to-find-cover>



6. Data on the average hourly rate that DPD couriers receive, both before and after essential costs such as fuel, insurance and vehicle maintenance are taken into account, and details of any audits that DPD undertakes to ensure that its couriers are receiving at least the National Living Wage;
7. Data on the number of hours that DPD couriers work per week, broken down into ten hour blocks (e.g. the proportion and number working 1-10 hours, 11-20 hours and so on).
8. Data on the duration of couriers' work for DPD: for example, what proportion of couriers work for DPD for up to six months, up to one year, up to two years, and so.

We would be grateful if you could provide a response by 20 March.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Field', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair