



From: Jon Hegerty
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 4:03:14 PM
To: Raj Jethwa
Subject: Response to quotes in The Daily Telegraph

Dear Raj,

I couldn't avoid your recent statement in the Daily Telegraph regarding the use of punitive pay deductions by employers against our members. Comments such as this only make resolving our dispute more challenging and do nothing to improve fractured relations across the sector.

To put at the feet of our members the blame for failing to resolve this dispute ("not withholding pay would be allowing staff to target and impact students negatively without challenge or protection") is unreasonable and unfair, as well as deeply divisive. You rightly acknowledge that our members work hard, yet the response from employers has been to impose continuous real-term pay cuts. UCU members are forced into this situation due to your members failure to resolve our pay dispute in a way which recognises the cost-of-living crisis they are facing.

The way to end the Marking and Assessment Boycott and the cycle of industrial action which has impacted our sector is through a negotiated agreement – not attempting to starve our members into calling off lawful industrial action. We have stated repeatedly that we remain willing and able to settle this dispute. Let's do that through negotiation rather than continuing to let this play out in the press and continue to damage staff, students, and the reputation of UK HE.

Yours

Jon Hegerty
Head of Bargaining Organising Campaigns and Education