Your name

Full address

**Your MP’s name**

**MP address**

Date

Dear [MP name]

I write as one of your constituents seeking support for upcoming industrial action held by members of the National Union of Journalists, as part of efforts to receive a fair and decent pay increase from news publisher Reach plc. The company’s titles include the Daily Mirror, Daily Express and many other local titles across the UK and Ireland.

As a [insert role e.g., journalist, editor] myself, I understand the significant contribution colleagues across the industry make through their reporting, to ensure members of the public access news that is accurate and reliable through quality journalism. The government acknowledged the critical work done by journalists throughout the pandemic, deeming them to be keyworkers engaged in vital public service.

Reach office closures have led to an increase in the number of staff working from home, transferring many costs from the company to individual workers. Workloads are intense. Spiralling cost of living increases are having a mounting impact on journalists across the group. Some have been forced to take on second jobs, others are experiencing mounting debt as they struggle to cope and support their families.

As the journalists who create the news and content of the titles suffer, those who run the company are sheltered from the impact of the pandemic and cost of living crisis. Reach awarded a £4m pay package to its chief executive last year and is paying £14m to shareholders as a half-year dividend in September.

It is clear that Reach can afford to pay its staff an increase that would go some way to help alleviate current financial pressures, including the rising energy bills affecting so many. It is also the case that most major UK companies would engage seriously with its staff through its collective bargaining process rather than adopt a take-it-or-leave it stance. Yet the company is refusing to engage with the NUJ in discussions and negotiations over pay.

Please support the staff at Reach in their fight for a fair pay award by raising questions in parliament and requesting a meeting with the company. The NUJ campaigns team (campaigns@nuj.org.uk) can put you in contact with local Reach journalists happy to discuss their experiences and why they are striking.

Yours sincerely,

[your name]