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Reference: Press release 29 April 2013

Dear Richard

Following two packed branch meetings I have been mandated by our members to write to you about the tone of the Council Press release earlier this week.

I along with our members particularly take exception to ***“This is a clear and complete victory for the council. We won and our opponents lost.”***

I attend many council committee meetings and sometimes I think politicians forget that they are also employers. In this case I am writing on behalf of our members to say it was grossly insensitive to use the words ‘victory’ especially when you are fully aware this decision means that hundreds of your staff will begin to receive their redundancy notices following the transfer to Capita.

It was only a few weeks ago in the Council meeting when I heard the following response from the Deputy Leader in answer to a question: ***“In Quarter 2 2012/13, Barnet was ranked in second place in London for the total number of ‘high performing and low cost’ services”***

So, on the one hand the staff are delivering excellent quality and value for money, however it seems very little thought was given to effect and negative impact of the tone of the press release. I am seeking an undertaking from you that whatever the political battles are being waged within the town hall between politicians of all parties that any future press releases will be respectful of the hard working staff who are delivering services on your behalf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JO BURGESS".

John Burgess  
Branch Secretary  
Barnet UNISON