

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
11 Downing Street
London SW1

4 July 2020

Dear Chancellor

THE FUTURE OF UK AVIATION AND AEROSPACE

I am sure you will be aware of the decision by Airbus relating to staffing at Broughton and Filton. The site at Broughton has a long history of providing the technical, engineering and manufacturing for much of the UK's aerospace, space and defence sector.

Many years ago, a much smaller aerospace factory in Huyton, near Liverpool was closed. My dad was one of the people who worked at Lucas Aerospace and, overnight, the commitment and dedication of the employees was brushed aside.

I am writing to urge you to not let the same happen to the much more significant site at Broughton. Many of the 1,400 employees who are now under threat are spread across North Wales, Cheshire and Wirral, including some in my ward of Wallasey.

These are highly skilled jobs at a plant that is globally recognised. It would be a travesty if the company could not be further supported. The package of measures you have arranged for British industry is welcome but, as you recognised, specific sectors need additional support. Aerospace is one of those sectors.

Unite the Union has encouraged its members to contact MPs and councillors, regardless of political party, to urge us all to support a future for UK aviation and aerospace.

The young apprentices I met when I last visited Broughton had a bright future ahead of them. Our regional economy needs it to be secured.

I understand you will be making further announcements on Wednesday. I very much hope support for the likes of Airbus, and the thousands of jobs in their supply chain, will be included.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ian Lewis
ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk