

# BRITISH AIRWAYS STOP BETRAYING BRITAIN



## Why and how is BA betraying Britain?

British Airways are using this terrible health pandemic to make drastic and unnecessary permanent cuts. BA is a wealthy company that can probably afford to ride out the crisis. Instead they have chosen to take taxpayers money whilst decimating their British workforce. It is a disgrace that they are allowed to still carry the British flag.

## Is BA using the Covid-19 crisis as cover?

Yes. There is no doubt that the airline industry has short-term problems that require short-term solutions. However, BA are not looking to make temporary changes, they are using the crisis to dust off an old plan to make permanent, drastic cuts to jobs, wages and conditions. Why can't the changes be temporary and reversed as revenue returns?

## Is BA doing anything different from other employers?

### What is project 'fire and re-hire'?

What BA is doing is completely different from other employers. Unite negotiates with over 38,000 employers and not one of them is essentially terminating the contracts of their entire workforce (42,000 staff) and re-hiring them on inferior terms and conditions.

## Is what BA doing legal?

We don't think so. BA has issued what are called Section 188 (termination) notices to the workforce. We believe the notices to be unlawful as they have been issued whilst most of the workforce has been 'furloughed' and cannot engage in meaningful consultation. We will challenge this in the international and national courts.

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## How many jobs will be permanently lost?

BA is planning to make 12,000 workers permanently redundant.

## Are labour costs a real problem for BA?

No, people are not the problem. In 2019 workers were responsible for less than one quarter of BA's costs. Fuel is traditionally BA's most expensive outgoing and is now far less expensive than it was before the crisis.

## Can BA afford to keep people on?

Yes, BA will not go bust and they can afford to keep on their staff without permanently cutting wages.

- BA was making massive profits prior to the crisis and has substantial reserves that would likely be sufficient to weather the storm until the end of 2021.
- BA have also accessed £300 million from the UK's Covid-19 finance facility and the owners IAG have accessed €1 billion from the Spanish Government.

## Has BA been paying Shareholders?

The owners of BA have been paying on average £446 million per year over the last five years in dividends to their shareholders. We could end up with the grotesque spectacle of British jobs being sacrificed to help safeguard payouts to firms including one ultimately controlled by the Qatar Royal Family.

## Have BA taken tax-payers money?

Yes, BA is taking tax-payers money through the 'furlough' scheme as well as accessing hundreds of millions via loans. However, instead of using this money as was intended – to protect jobs, they appear to be intent on slashing employment.

## What does Unite want from British Airways?

- Withdraw the Section 188 notice and threat of dismissal.
- Negotiate in good faith with Unite.
- Agree for any proposed changes to pay, terms and conditions to be temporary and *to be returned in line with increased revenue*.

**Whilst nurses save lives  
Whilst companies push to make PPE  
BA plot to use the crisis to permanently  
cut pay and conditions**

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