



23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009

## **NIPSA STEPS UP CAMPAIGN FOR REINSTATEMENT OF TRAFFIC ATTENDANTS**

Northern Ireland's largest public service trade union NIPSA is stepping up the pressure for the reinstatement of 25 Belfast Traffic Attendants who were dismissed from their jobs. On 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 the staff had walked out in protest at working conditions.

Following direct representations two weeks ago to the DRD Minister Conor Murphy to intervene, NIPSA has now sent the Minister an independent Health and Safety report on the working conditions for Traffic Attendants. The Health and Safety Consultant's report found that the company employing the Traffic Attendants was in serious breach of Health and Safety law.

After lodging the report with the Minister to-day NIPSA's General Secretary John Corey said .....

***"It is very clear from the independent Health and Safety expert's report that the private sector company responsible for the employment of the Traffic Attendants was failing to comply with Health and Safety at Work Regulations.***

***This is a clear breach of the contract between the Department for Regional Development and the company. To-day we have again urged the Minister to intervene directly and ensure this company now reinstates the Traffic Attendants immediately.***

***Furthermore the Department cannot abdicate its responsibilities in this matter. Traffic Attendants wear the uniform of the Department and act on their behalf. Therefore the Department has a clear responsibility as well to ensure that all Health and Safety at Work laws are being met at all times."***

For the last 10 weeks Traffic Attendants have been mounting a strong campaign to win their reinstatement. They have been holding public protests daily in Callender Street, Belfast outside the premises of NSL Services Group.

In a new development to highlight these unjust sackings NIPSA has commissioned Billboards in the Belfast City Centre area located at Millfield and Waring Street/Dunbar link junction.

**ENDS**

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NIPSA represents over 45,000 members in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Education & Library Boards, Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, & District Councils.

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