



Jonathan Reynolds MP

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Sent via email

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Dear Daniel,

I write following reported developments in EP Group's attempts to buy International Distribution Services (IDS) plc. As you will no doubt know, this potential takeover has garnered significant public interest, raising questions about the future of the Royal Mail as a subsidiary of IDS plc.

As you know Royal Mail is a beloved British institution, whose symbol and mark is a huge source of pride not just to Royal Mail's staff and customers but to wider British society. The future of Royal Mail as a British institution is imperative.

The Labour Party believes that Royal Mail provides crucial services to the public, is a key part of our national institution and remains a significant contributor to the UK economy. As such, it is imperative for us that any purchase of IDS plc comes with it cast-iron guarantees on the Royal Mail's future, its core values and safeguarding this iconic British brand.

While I recognise that a takeover by EP Group is far from complete, with positive reports of progress towards a deal emerging in the media, I write to ask whether you would offer myself and the Labour Party commitments to undertaking certain safeguards should a takeover be completed.

Firstly, Royal Mail is a national asset and its ability to use the royal cypher of HRH King Charles III is an important symbol of its unique place in British life and the value British people rightly place in it. Taking IDS into private ownership risks seeing the company be operated overseas, something which the Labour Party would never accept. As such, can you confirm that, should EP Group complete a takeover of IDS, the Royal Mail would continue to be headquartered in the UK and remain tax resident in the UK?

Secondly, the Labour Party believes that Royal Mail staff are essential workers that offer great social value to our communities. Postal workers are Royal Mail's greatest asset, can you confirm, should this deal go through, that you will work closely with the Communication Workers Union to build a sustainable Royal Mail?

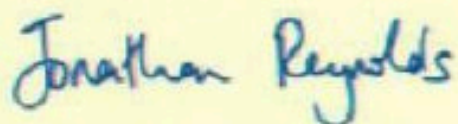
Finally, Labour is committed to the Universal Service Obligation (USO) as Royal Mail's central mission. We believe the USO underpins our postal service and the enormous value it has for communities and businesses as well as being an important foundation of the union. In that spirit, can you confirm EP Group's commitment to the USO and that it would be your intention for Royal to remain the Universal Service Provider.

Whilst it's important that Britain remains open and attractive to foreign investment, Royal Mail is an iconic British institution with a unique place in our society and infrastructure. Royal Mail

is as British as it gets, and Labour will take the necessary steps to safeguard its undeniable identity and place in public life. Given the importance of the matter, I would be grateful if you would consider these issues as a matter of urgency. I look forward to hearing from you.

Given the public interest in this matter, I will be releasing this letter to the press.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'R'.

Jonathan Reynolds MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade
Member of Parliament for Stalybridge and Hyde