

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>The Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b> 21 February 2013
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Report No:</b> SL/LA/969/13
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Sharon Lang</b>	<b>Contact No:</b> 01475 712112
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Blacklisting of Trade Unionists - Motion by Councillor Clocherty</b>	

---

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the attached motion from Councillor Clocherty, counter-signed by Councillor McIlwee, concerning the operation of blacklists against trade unionists, which has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 22. APPENDIX

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Council is requested to consider the attached motion.

**Sharon Lang**  
**Legal & Democratic Services**

## BLACKLISTING OF TRADE UNIONISTS

This Council is deeply concerned by recent revelations that some major construction companies have been involved in denying employment to workers who have been engaged in trade union activity, such as the reporting of breaches of health and safety standards, through the unacceptable practice of operating a "blacklist" of these workers collated by private consultancies such as the Consulting Association.

This Council notes that:

- Information and evidence has been provided to the Scottish Select Affairs Committee during the committee's enquiry into the use of blacklisting of trade unionists in Scotland
- The UK Information Commissioner has investigated and taken action against the Consulting Association for this practice
- Trade Unions (notably Unite, GMB and UCATT) have an on-going campaign against the blacklisting of trade unionists which has severely impacted on many trade unionists and their families
- It has been asserted that the blacklisting of trade unionists has involved covert surveillance and record keeping and may have involved the complicity of the police and security services
- The operation of such blacklists may be a breach of legal statutes, regulations and conventions covering employment rights, human rights, freedom of information, data protection and rights to freedom of association
- Victimization of workers raising concerns over workplace health, safety and welfare discourage efforts to prevent workplace accidents, fatalities and injuries and encourage industrial disputes both official and unofficial
- The current consideration by the Scottish Government of legislation on rules for Public Procurement provide an opportunity to ensure that companies engage in the blacklisting of trade unionists are prevented from tendering for public sector contracts
- Councils, such as Hull City Council, have resolved to ensure that companies involved in blacklisting are not included, where permitted by legislation, in future lists of approved suppliers and have urged UK Government Ministers to ensure that such companies are prevented from securing future public sector contracts by the inclusion of appropriate clauses in the sustainable procurement bill being considered at Westminster

This Council resolves to:

- Support the campaign by trade unions against the operation of blacklists against trade unionists
- Where permitted by legislation, exclude companies involved in blacklisting of trade unionists from future approved suppliers lists
- Where permitted by legislation, ensure that companies included in future approved suppliers lists demonstrate that they have processes in place to encourage the reporting by workers, including those who are trade union members, of workplace concerns, particularly in respect of health, safety and welfare
- Write to the Scottish Government urging the inclusion of clauses in future Scottish bills covering public procurement to prevent companies involved in the blacklisting of trade unionists from securing future public sector contracts

Proposer: Councillor Jim Clocherty

Seconder: Councillor Joe McIlwee