

3. The DMCW explained that this was an opportunity for those present to ask questions and to provide evidence about what was happening on the ground, and to inform longer-term policies to prevent further deepening of inequalities post Covid 19. Similar meetings were being held with all the Equality forums for the same purpose.
4. A paper collated by Wales TUC had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the main issues and concerns, which would be the substantive agenda item for discussion.
5. The TUC had identified early on that it was important to have an independent platform for the workforce to raise their concerns and so had set up a whistleblowing website for employees, whether union members or not, to raise their concerns.
6. The largest number of initial complaints came from the construction industry and call centres. More recently complaints were being received from the food manufacturing and retail sectors, which employed large numbers of women and BAME workers.
7. There was also anxiety from teaching unions about easing lockdown and the potential for schools to reopen at an early stage resulting in health & safety risks for teachers and staff, as well as pupils. The DMCW said that no decisions had yet been taken on this.
8. Another area causing severe anxiety was redeployment of Local Authority staff into NHS/hospital settings. Many employees were living within extended families, some of whom were shielding. Redeployed staff have no access to separate accommodation, as this was only being provided to frontline staff and those with children were not entitled to access to school settings.
9. Other complaints were about PPE provision, the large percentage of BAME cases and deaths, testing and housing.
10. The DMCW committed to sharing the paper and the issues raised during discussion with her Cabinet colleagues. It was important to keep equalities and human rights to the forefront. The DMCW also suggested that an assessment should be made in the near future of how points from the meeting had been taken forward and she agreed with WTUC that regular meetings would be useful during this crisis period.

**Action 1: Deputy Minister and Chief Whip to share TUC paper and meeting notes with Cabinet colleagues.**

**Action 2: Equality officials to arrange follow up & regular meetings.**

## **Agenda item 1: Discussion on TUC paper - Equality Impact of Covid-19**