



Dispatches Response

Said a spokesperson for the business:

“We strongly reject the allegations which we understand will be made by Channel 4 Dispatches series which do not in any way accurately represent the business, as they are either wholly wrong or seriously inaccurate and misleading especially when taken out of context.

“We take the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees extremely seriously and believe that the standards we set are amongst the best in the sector, something which was borne out by the extensively researched Equality and Human Rights Commission Inquiry Report into the recruitment and employment in the meat and poultry sector which highlighted Bernard Matthews as “an employer of choice for agency workers.”

“All of our employees, whether from the UK or the wider EU, are paid substantially above the minimum wage and none of our employees are on zero hours contracts. Our agency workers enjoy pay parity with equivalent permanent employees from their first day working on site.

“Agency workers are required at our Holton site to enable us to handle the significant fluctuations in demand that take place from week to week but also during our seasonal Christmas peak period.

“We appreciate agency workers are an important part of our business and workforce. We therefore value their contribution and ensure that they enjoy pay parity with equivalent permanent employees from their first day working on site. We understand the flexible nature of agency work and guarantee to pay a minimum of four hours in the event that someone is asked to come to work when none is available. In addition, all opportunities for permanent recruitment are offered to our agency workers in the first instance.

“Our Holton site is also unionised and we have a strong working relationship with the union who represent our employees very effectively.”

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