



Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union  
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## **For immediate release**

### **Covid-19 hazard emerges at Broadgate Estates — Workers and members of the public placed at risk — Outsourcing contractor fails to act**

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Staff and members of the public at the flagship Broadgate Centre have been placed at risk of exposure to Covid-19 as a result of multiple failings by Samsic UK, one of the country's leading Facilities Management companies.

The Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union has learned that the company has allegedly breached its legal duties by failing to require a manager with Covid-19 to self-isolate and by failing to inform cleaning staff of the situation. A second member of Samsic UK's management staff allegedly misinformed employees that Covid-related sick pay resulting from the requirement to self-isolate was payable at the company's discretion.

CAIWU contacted Samsic UK's HR department on October 29<sup>th</sup> to express its concerns and require immediate remedial action. It is yet to receive a response. In the meantime, the company has required cleaners at Broadgate who have been in close contact with a known carrier of Covid-19 to continue to work as normal throughout. A number of those affected are vulnerable due to age or other underlying health conditions.

CAIWU understands that members of the public visiting Broadgate were placed at risk as a result of Samsic UK's failures to act.

It has also emerged that while cleaners were left exposed and vulnerable, management staff may have been alerted to the danger and offered the opportunity to self-isolate. According to one member of the cleaning team, 'We were never sent to self-isolate, only the managers were.'

CAIWU spokesperson Danbert Vanzetti described the situation as 'deplorable'. 'Samsic has shown total disregard for the safety of its staff and members of the public,' he said. 'We have informed the Health and Safety Executive about this reckless behaviour. At the

very least, we expect Samsic to discipline those responsible and take steps to ensure there is no repetition. We will not leave our members exposed to this kind of danger.’

**About CAIWU:** The Cleaners & Allied Independent Workers Union is a registered trade union representing over a thousand workers mainly in London's cleaning industry. We believe that every human being is entitled to dignity and respect in the workplace, and it is our mission to help our members fight for this basic right, along with others like fair pay, terms and work conditions.

**About Samsic UK:** A leading Facilities Management company, Regent Samsic provides a broad range of services to organisations in both the corporate and public sectors. It is part of the Samsic Group, which reported global revenues of 2.7 billion Euro in 2019-20. It prides itself on its corporate social responsibility commitments, which it says form the foundation of its sustainable growth.

**END**

**Notes to editor:**

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