Dear <<MP Name>>,

I write with regard to the unjust decision to exclude non-academised Sixth form college staff from the funded 5.5% pay rise afforded to school and academy sixth forms this year.

As a result, the National Education Union is now undertaking strike action in Sixth form colleges. Having already had three days, they have recently announced a further four, including 3 consecutive days at the start of the new year. This means we will have had 7 days of strike action between 28 November and 9 January. This results in 7 days of lost teaching out of 19 working days. The impact of this is beginning to take its toll on my child’s progress and the industrial action at the start of term will begin to hit BTEC and mock exams which is vital for preparation for them.

The government say that *‘Colleges set individual pay awards, not the government’* but this is not the case for Sixth form colleges, whose pay is set nationally on the same spine as academised sixth forms. It is also worth noting that the Conservative party matched a 6.5% funded pay award that schools received and extended it to colleges last year, so the government can and do intervene.

The government also say that *‘we have given £300m to colleges in the budget’.* This is appreciated BUT it isn’t going to cover pay for this academic year and is most likely going to cover the costs of more 16 year olds in the system.

The government spent £1.2bn on funding the school teacher pay award. The Sixth Form Colleges Association estimates that £20m would cover the 5.5% pay award for the 40 remaining Sixth form colleges. Such a sum is miniscule in the context of the overall money spent. As such, please will the government reconsider?

Do you honestly think staff in school sixth forms like Newman College deserve a funded pay award, but staff teaching my child at BHASVIC do not? What does this mean for the recruitment and retention of quality teaching staff at BHASVIC? Surely, staff will go to the provider who is able to offer them more money? Newman students have already had 7 days more teaching than BHASVIC students through no fault of their own. Is this fair on my child? This issue could be resolved so easily and I am bitterly disappointed by the unfair actions that this Labour government have made in this instance.

I had hoped for better and hope that you will listen and advocate on behalf of staff at BHASVIC and other Sixth form colleges to include them in the pay award.

Yours sincerely,