

NORTH & WESTERN LANCASHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HEAD OFFICE

9-10 EASTWAY BUSINESS VILLAGE
OLIVERS PLACE, FULWOOD
PRESTON, PR2 9WT

T +44 (0)1772 653 000
F +44 (0)1772 655 544

FYLDE COAST OFFICE

1-2 LOCKHEED COURT
AMY JOHNSON WAY
BLACKPOOL, FY4 2RN

T +44 (0)1253 347 063
F +44 (0)1772 655 544

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO.145454
VAT NUMBER: 154 2675 62



INFO@LANCSCHAMBER.CO.UK
WWW.LANCSCHAMBER.CO.UK

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21st May 2020

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State, BEIS
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Secretary of State

This week's announcement by Rolls Royce to cut significant numbers of its workforce is a major blow to the aerospace sector and to UK manufacturing as a whole.

We are extremely worried about the consequences of this announcement for aerospace jobs in Lancashire and across the supply chain. Lancashire is the 4th largest manufacturing cluster for aerospace in the world and this sector is critical to future economic growth and skills development in the region. The sector is also vital to our export potential.

With Brexit just months away and the full aftershocks of the coronavirus epidemic still to be felt, this announcement is further evidence of a real crisis facing aerospace industries.

The North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce is calling for urgent action by the Government to establish a task force in support of the UK's civil aerospace sector.

Your sincerely

BABS MURPHY
Chief Executive