



PC/del

28 September 2021

Mr M Loeb
International President
IATSE
207 W. 25th Street
4th Floor
New York, NY 10001
USA

Dear Matt

I'm writing to express Bectu's unwavering support and solidarity with IATSE members challenging the long hours culture that has blighted our industry for too long.

The battle against long hours takes many forms, be it workers that are working unpaid prep and wrap hours or expected to be driving home after a 15 hour shift, only to be on the road again a few short hours later. Crew on both sides of the Atlantic work dangerously long hours and the problem is only getting worse.

We know that this is reaching a critical point. While the vast majority of Bectu members were relieved and ready when filming restarted after the pandemic forced it to close, that time away from the cut and thrust of the industry has had a profound effect, allowing workers the time to reflect on their poor work-life balance and working conditions with some having already chosen new careers as a result.

As you may be aware, Bectu is also about to enter a renegotiation on our TV Drama agreement with Pact – the UK screen sector trade body. Over 2,100 members signed our open letter, requesting the renegotiation with a renewed focus on tackling the long hours culture that plagues the industry. The open letter also called on Pact to:

- Work with us to produce an improved agreement which is valued and respected across the industry
- Set a timetable to complete a review of the agreement as soon as possible
- Prioritise mental health, wellbeing, and work life balance

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The same pressures arise for our members who work in film and high end TV or factual entertainment. It is essential that these issues are addressed to safeguard the future of the screen industries, otherwise we risk losing skills and talent. Bectu's March 2021 survey found that 40% of respondents working in film and TV have considered leaving the creative industries at some point since the pandemic. Workers are understandably pursuing fairer working conditions, and as people who care passionately about the sector, it is our duty and our responsibility to our members to address this.

IATSE's commendable efforts to secure reasonable working hours, living wages, meal breaks and sustainable benefits are issues that affect employees and freelancers across the world, and we stand with you in the fight for such basic freelance rights.

Bectu is, as always, proud to stand with you in this fight and we pledge our solidarity in the global campaign to tackle excessive working hours and create a fairer industry for workers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Philippa Childs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philippa Childs
Head of Bectu, a sector of Prospect Union