

# Is the game up? More businesses face 'gig economy' challenges

The Independent Workers Union of Great Britain have gained another admission that individuals classified as 'self employed' are in fact workers. This time it is couriers working for the Doctor's Laboratory providing blood supplies to hospitals and samples to laboratories. However, they are not done with them yet and are pushing for a finding that they are in fact employees and entitled to enjoy the full protection that that status carries. Whilst this admission will be welcomed by those seeking greater protection for workers and employees we have to wonder how many other businesses will continue to try and get away with classifying those who work for them as self employed unless the individuals or the IWU go to the trouble and expense of taking legal action?



TDL's admission comes after a similar move by eCourier, a subsidiary of Royal Mail, which last month admitted it was wrongly classifying hundreds of couriers as self-employed contractors. It is now carrying out a review to work out how best to switch relevant staff to worker status. Both admissions came after legal action backed by the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain.

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/jun/29/blood-supply-company-concedes-worker-status-of-couriers-to-nhs>



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