

## Joint statement on Sonae

From Paul Finegan, the Regional Secretary UNITE and George Howarth, MP for Knowsley.

Paul Finegan and George Howarth met on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012 to discuss the present situation regarding Sonae. Both are agreed that it would be worthwhile bringing in an independent expert to carry out an assessment of what it would take to resolve all of the health and safety and environmental problems associated with the factory. To this end Unite have asked Bud Hudspith to conduct the necessary inspection.

It is, in addition, agreed that, subject to a credible independent expert carrying out any improvements or modifications deemed necessary, there would be no need for the factory to close.

Paul Finegan and George Howarth also have made it clear that any such undertaking must be quite separate from the current planning application which has to be considered without prejudice by Knowsley Council's planning committee.

Both believe that the approach set out in this statement offers the best prospect of arriving at a resolution to the current situation in regard to the Sonae workforce and the long-standing concerns on the part of the community in Kirkby.