This is the most anti-democratic assault on the rights of working people in a generation — Long Bailey

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Shadow BIS Secretary, responding to the implementation of the Trade Union Act, said:

"This is the most unnecessary and anti-democratic assault on the rights of working people in a generation.

"For a Government elected by just a quarter of eligible voters to impose a 40% threshold on public sector workers taking industrial action, is a shameless example of double standards.

"As all working people know, the decision to take industrial action is never taken lightly. But working people's rights need to be protected.

"This will save our economy just 0.00002% of GDP, showing that the economic case for this is rubbish. The most effective way of boosting wages and people's living standards is through them taking collective action in their trade union.

"This Act will perpetuate the chronic low pay in our economy which costs us all through lower taxes and a higher bill for in-work benefits"