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Re: Archaeology Branch of Unite the Union, application for Sectoral Employment Order (SEO)

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Archaeology Branch of Unite the Union, who have applied to the Labour Court for a Sectoral Employment Order (SEO) in the commercial archaeology sector. I write as Professor of Archaeology at University College Dublin and a former Head of School (2016-2020) with over twenty years of experience of training student archaeologists. I am also Vice-Chair of the Institute of Archaeologists Ireland – although I do not write in this capacity. I am very well placed to make an assessment of the need for the SEO.

I am confident that the provision of the SEO would improve relationships between employers and workers, avoiding the previous problems with industrial action.

There is also wide-spread evidence in Ireland that many people do not pursue a long-term career in archaeology because of pay and conditions. The SEO is an important and necessary step in improving this situation.

I am happy to support their application in very strong terms.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Graeme Warren, MRIA, FSA, FSA(Scot), MIAI
President, International Society of Hunter-Gatherer Research
Vice-Chair, Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland