TUC statement on Full-time jobs (18/12/2014)

"Much of the current economic debate is about whether we have a sufficiently strong recovery. It is therefore important to understand whether or not there are significant changes in the profile of the economy, and the workforce, before and after the recession. That's why we chose the January –March 2008 figures as the starting point. However it is important to consider the current government's performance too, and it is natural that ministers will more often focus their statements on the period for which they are responsible since their election in 2010. But we hope they would agree that the goal for the UK still needs to be a full recovery in respect of the period prior to the recession.

The TUC is concerned that there are many people in self-employed work who are bogusly classified in this way, or who are self-employed as a second choice because they cannot gain a full-time employee job. The rise in self-employment is in our view more a sign of a worrying casualisation of the labour force than a boom in entrepreneurialism. So we believe it is important disaggregate full-time employee jobs from full-time self-employed jobs.

The full figures for our analysis were given in the table in the notes of our press release dated 12.11.14, which you can read here:http://www.tuc.org.uk/economic-issues/labour-market-and-economic-reports/only-one-every-forty-net-jobs-recession-full-time . It is important to note the 1 in 40 figure for net new jobs since 2008 applied for the most recent data at the time of publication. However, on Wednesday of this week the ONS published new labour market figures. The more recent data changes the headline number we used of 1 in 40 net new jobs to around 1 in 11. It is good to see a movement in the right direction, but to get back to where we were in 2008 the full-time employee share of net new jobs since 2008 would have to match the share of the labour market composition in 2008, which was 64.42% of all jobs. So there is a long way to go yet."