

[Coronavirus](#) [News](#) [Politics](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Money](#) [Opinion](#) [Tech](#) [Life](#) [Style](#)[See all News](#)

Pressure on Shell over safety of platforms

By Russell Hotten, Industry Editor

08 September 2007 • 00:01 am



Royal Dutch Shell is facing a growing campaign about alleged poor safety on several North Sea oil platforms, with Britain's biggest trade union and a former executive of the

company calling on MPs and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to investigate.

Unite, formed from the merger of the TGWU transport union and Amicus, accuses Shell of neglecting safety on platforms it has recently put up for sale and has warned that a deterioration in relations between the company and staff is putting workers at risk.

Meanwhile, Bill Campbell, former group auditor of Shell International who has highlighted safety at the company for years, has now written to every MP and member of the House of Lords claiming to have evidence that the company has ignored problems.

Unite said in a statement: "Many platform areas are now not fully covered by trained and competent people and certain HSE safety-critical roles are not fully supported. The gaps in these safety-critical positions could be so severe that, in the event of an emergency, staff may be unable to cope."

Several Shell platforms - Cormorant Alpha, Dunlin Alpha, Tern, Eider and North Cormorant - are being sold as the company scales back activities in the North Sea, where finding and extracting oil and gas is becoming increasingly more expensive.

Shell denies strongly that it has ever compromised on safety and says that managers on the platforms have not complained of a lack of staff in safety-critical functions. However, safety is an emotive issue and Shell will be unhappy that its standards and procedures are being questioned. Nor will the union's plan to intensify its campaign help the company find buyers for the platforms.

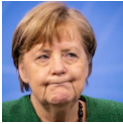
A spokesman for Shell said yesterday: "We are aware that this [sale of the platforms] is an unsettling time for staff. Safety is our first priority and foremost on the agenda at all the affected platforms. We have asked personnel to raise any concerns personally with senior management so that we can understand and fully address them."

In a separate campaign, Mr Campbell wrote to MPs at the end of July saying that Shell is putting "lives at stake." He claimed to have a "vast amount of evidence" that Shell has failed to tackle health and safety concerns, but did not spell out the details in the letter.

Mr Campbell, who has teamed up with a website that has been highly critical of Shell, appears to be of increasing concern to the company. A recent internal email admits that the website has thrown Shell "on the back foot". The company declined to discuss Mr Campbell but said that if anyone raised a safety issue "we take it seriously and look at it".



More stories



Germany is facing an epic identity crisis



Boat Race 2021: Cambridge defend race tactics after pulling off clean sweep over Oxford



Public will be urged to take Covid test twice a week as lockdown rules ease



Fifty-two areas of England record no Covid in over-70s in past week



Home radiators will have to be 10 degrees cooler for Britain to reach climate targets



Line of Duty, season 6 episode 3 review: thrilling action, wince-inducing dialogue and barbs at the BBC

More from The Telegraph



Flawed lateral flow tests may do more harm than good



Europe's economic response to Covid hangs in balance as Germany presses pause

Declan Rice sweating on knee injury that could harm his England Euros hopes



In the heat of the culture wars we have lost our moral compass



Bristol out of Europe and left to rue broadcaster's failure to cover all angles



Opportunity knocks for Mason Greenwood as he seals scrappy Manchester United win over Brighton

More stories

◆ Live | Coronavirus latest news: Boris Johnson to unveil plan to lift England's lockdown and relaunch international travel

By India McTaggart

► 5 Apr 2021, 12:38pm



◆ Live | Travel news latest: One-dose vaccine could open up 'amber list' holidays to young Britons

By Emma Featherstone

5 Apr 2021, 12:37pm



Grand National 2021 tips, best bets and five to watch for Aintree race

By Marcus Armytage

5 Apr 2021, 12:37pm



Boris Johnson's lockdown roadmap: pubs, hairdressers and foreign holidays are next steps in the road

By Charles Hymas

5 Apr 2021, 12:32pm



Placing Kenya on the 'red list' is devastating for locals, and defies logic

SARAH MARSHALL

“ 5 Apr 2021, 12:30pm



Masters 2021: What time does it start, how can I watch and what are the odds?

By Telegraph Sport

5 Apr 2021, 12:29pm



The Telegraph

Back to top ^

Follow us on:



Contact us

About us

Rewards

Archive

Reader Prints

Branded Content

Syndication and Commissioning

Guidelines

Privacy

Terms and Conditions

Advertising Terms

Fantasy Sport

[UK Voucher Codes](#)

[Betting Offers](#)

[Modern Slavery](#)

[Manage Cookies](#)

© Telegraph Media Group Limited 2020