



## **Caterers Offshore Trade Association**

### **Press statement – Unite opens ballot on industrial action**

**Date issued:** 8 September 2015

Peter Bruce, chair of the Caterers Offshore Trade Association, said: “We are disappointed that Unite has decided to push ahead with a ballot for industrial action.

“The decision to implement a pay freeze for offshore workers was not taken lightly. Our members are already consulting on redundancies and a pay freeze is vital if further jobs are to be saved.

“The reality is that our customers and therefore our member companies now find themselves facing a much tougher economic climate than when the two year deal was agreed. Staff have enjoyed annual pay increases since 2000 with the exception of only one year.

“At this difficult time employees and businesses must pull together to secure the long term future of the industry. Strike action would further damage investor confidence in the UKCS which is already known to be one of the highest cost basins in the world.”

**Ends**

### **About COTA**

The Caterers Offshore Trade Association (COTA) represents six companies which supply catering and auxiliary staff to offshore platforms in the North Sea – Aramark, Entier, ESS, FOSS & ESG, Sodexo and Trinity International Services.

Together we employ almost 3000 staff, including chefs, stewards and administrative team members.

COTA was established over 20 years ago to represent member companies to agree terms and conditions for staff employed by COTA companies and encourage members to work collaboratively on health and safety requirements (HSEQ).

Terms and conditions of employment are negotiated with representatives of Unite and RMT of which some of our staff are members.