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## **WILKINSON - REDUCTIONS IN HOURS**

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Dear Colleagues,

The Daily Mirror yesterday ran a headline stating that the company were creating 1,000 new jobs, and opening 10 new stores this year. As you will know this is not true. If Team members read the headlines, you would naturally think what is going on when the company are currently consulting on seeking reductions of working hours at over 80 stores. If Team Members read the rest of the Daily Mirror article you would then see the correct position that the company is in. The article in the Daily Mirror uses last year's company accounts, and not this years, which, sadly are no better.

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But its annual profits plunged by 62% to £22.7million after the family-owned firm, which has 370 branches, ploughed £44m back into the business.

\\ The firm is owned and run by the third generation of founder JK Wilkinson, who started the business as a hardware store in Leicester in 1930. \\

The drop in profits hit the family in the pocket, with the dividend paid to shareholders down from £11.5m to £2.2m last year.

\\ In a statement, family directors Karin Swann and Lisa Wilkinson said: "Even in these recession-dominated times, \\ whilst many are fleeing the high street - some voluntarily but many not - we seek to continue to support and be a key part of the lifeblood of our local communities." \\

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**In these uncertain times, It has never been more important for Team Members to be a member of GMB Union. *Your Voice, and Your Protection in Wilko.***

Yours sincerely,



Mick Rix  
GMB National Officer

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