

Visteon workers seek better deal

Former workers from the Visteon car parts factory in Basildon have protested at a rally in London over the loss of up to 40% of their pensions.

The 170 workers in Essex were among more than 500 at three UK factories who lost their jobs when Visteon collapsed.

The UNITE union held a mass rally in London and told workers it was considering legal action to force their former employers, Ford to step in.

Visteon was set up in 2000, taking over many factories formerly owned by Ford.

'Copper-bottomed promises'

Unite said workers in Basildon, Belfast and Enfield, London, would lose up to 40% of their pensions because they will have to rely on the Government's pension protection fund for their money.

Joint general secretary Tony Woodley told the rally: "Unite stood by Visteon workers in the fight for fair redundancy payments when the company went into administration and the union will not abandon Visteon workers fighting for pensions justice."

Mr Woodley said former owners Ford made "copper-bottomed promises" to the workers before they were transferred to Visteon and pledged to hold Ford to its promises.

The union is calling for an "urgent" meeting with Ford's chairman, he added.

"Unite has already asked the government's pensions regulator to investigate whether there was inappropriate behaviour that sees thousands of workers having to go into the pensions protection fund," said Mr Woodley.

Unite said altogether 3,000 former workers were facing reduced pensions.



Workers held a seven week sit-in earlier in the year