

G4S statement received 1st July 2020 re allegations 1,000 employees are dependent on food aid in UAE during COVID-19 pandemic

"The wellbeing of our employees is our number one priority. We believe they need care and support and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect at all times, especially in a worldwide pandemic.

"We have been proactively providing free accommodation, soap and hand sanitiser, and more than 40,000 meals in the past two months. We are also in the process of repatriating more than 900 people, regardless of cost. More than 450 people have returned to their country of origin so far, and a further 460 will return home in coming weeks.

"For those who wish to remain in the UAE, we are arranging interviews with prospective employers."

Background

- In March, G4S's contract with Dubai International Airport, which employed more than 1000 people, was cancelled. The contract's new operator did not offer former employees new visas.

- G4S has been proactively supporting employees and former employees in genuine hardship with both meal deliveries and food allowances. In excess of 40,000 meals have been provided in the past two months, and this is ongoing, as is the provision of food allowances, where this is more practicable.

- G4S provides soap and hand sanitiser in all company accommodation facilities and offices to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our employees. The accommodation facilities are cleaned multiple times each day, and there is a regular programme of deep-cleaning and sterilisation (to Dubai Municipality standards).

- G4S has proactively created isolation facilities in each accommodation facility, together with a stand-alone isolation accommodation in Ajman to provide a safe, sterilised environment for employees to isolate. We have been working closely with the MOHAP, DHA and SEHA throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the best care is available to all our employees.

- In accordance with Ministerial No. 279 of 2020, G4S has agreed with some employees to grant paid leave and / or unpaid leave to employees where there is no work for them to undertake.