

# MP calls on Mandelson to save firm.

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MP CHRIS McCAFFERTY has called upon business secretary Lord Mandelson to intervene in a bid to save a Brighouse firm.

UV Modular went into administration on January 15 when staff were told to collect their belongings. The doors were locked within hours.

The Armytage Road firm employed 140 people and specialised in the design, manufacture and supply of ambulances.

Now the Calder Valley MP has asked Lord Mandelson to step in . She thinks that, even at this late stage, he can intervene to ensure that UV Modular is sold as a going concern.

The MP said: "I was shocked to hear that the directors of UV Modular have announced closure without any prior consultation with the workforce, the union or myself.

"I have always been impressed by the skill and enthusiasm of the workforce and I was as taken aback as they were, to find that their parent company, AssetCo plc, has decided to close the company as part of its strategic review."

Last year the company successfully secured a deal worth pounds 8m for two years to provide ambulances to the Scottish Ambulance Service with the prospect of it being extended.

Administrator Steve Ellis said their immediate priority was to examine the financial position of the business and see which assets could be disposed of for the benefit of creditors.

It's something which the MP is questioning: "I am very concerned at this approach as it would seem to me, given the strong order book and the expertise of the workers and indeed the management, that this company should be sold as a going concern and not broken up for profit.

"While I am aware that the Department for Work and Pensions has already provided redundancy support and given all the employees Job Kits, I have written to Lord Mandelson to see if he is able to intervene as a matter of urgency."

The company was formed in 2002 and quickly established itself as one of the UK's top manufacturers for ambulances and mobility buses until the shock news last month.

CAPTION(S):

HELP NEEDED: Lord Mandelson

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