



Dust up on the Jubilee Line



Your reps have raised concerns about tunnel dust. This follows reports of respiratory problems amongst members on trains and stations, increased levels of dust on Waterloo & City and Jubilee platforms at Canada Water and recent media reports. The response from LUL has been, as expected, less than convincing.

Work was undertaken at Waterloo to deal with problems surrounding dust on the W&C over Christmas. When the service resumed it was clear that the problem had not been resolved and dust levels were still the same or even higher. It took some persuasive arguments from the H&S reps for LUL to accept there was a problem and begin to deal with it.

Reduced platform working arrangements are now in place whilst data is gathered.

It is the same story on the Jubilee platform at Canada Water with a twist. It was accepted there was a problem with high levels of dust being reported, bad enough for SATs to be cancelled.

However when there was a PED failure shortly after the cancellation of SATs the decision to withdraw platform working was overturned.

It seems the service does take precedence!

RMT Jubilee South Branch have submitted a motion to the NEC to try and get some answers to the issues raised.

Our health is our most important thing.

The motion

You can read the full motion on www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk. This is a summary of the issues:

Jubilee South Branch is incredibly concerned about the very high dust levels on London Underground.

Concerns we have include:

- A number of members suffering with respiratory problems.
- Station staff and drivers having high incidents of chest colds.
- Notable levels of dirt when washing hands and face during or after a shift.
- SATs having to be suspended at Canada Water due to high dust levels.
- Equipment failing at London Bridge due to high dust levels.
- reports of ongoing dust problems at Waterloo which bosses eventually admitted were due to track works.
- High levels of dust and dirt in underground facilities across the line.

We believe the RMT should consider these actions:

- ask other branches to discuss the issue or survey RMT tube members about concerns.
- carry out our own research into health issues caused by tube dust
- Demand that tube bosses clean up the tube tracks which are the source of much of the dust.
- Demand that London Underground review and clean facilities across the Tube, prioritising those that are underground.
- Explain to members their rights in work to ensure their health, such as the use of face masks and 'refusal to work' rights.

Jubilee South branch news



If Red Tabards are the answer whatever was the question?

The RMT has announced that it plans to ballot all members for action short of strike following London Underground's plan to impose the much hated 'red tabards.'

Following heavy criticism from passengers in a Travel Watch survey that suggested the cutting of staff under the Fit For The Future reorganisation meant that passengers perception was that there were far fewer staff available and because they weren't at a central location (ticket office?) they were more difficult to locate.

Most reasonable people would interpret the reports assessment that more staff were required.

LUL's response, however, has been to roll out the red tabard to assuage the customers concern. The red tabard has some questionable attributes and we don't feel offers the right answers the customer wants.

What can we do about it?

We have produced some information for members at: www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/red-hivi

Assaulted at work and charged by the BTP, defended by the RMT

Old Bill - the enemy within?

Assaulted at work, hit 3 times in the chest, racially abused, members of your family insulted quite rightly led to the assailant being arrested and charged.

Then the BTP dropped the case against this "customer" in favour of pursuing a vendetta against the CSA who was assaulted. They charged him with threatening behaviour under the Public Order Act despite having the only 2 witness statements supporting our members version of events.

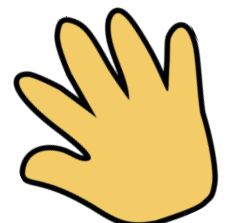
They took our guy to court and refused to review the evidence prior to the court case. Even on the day the CPS were bullish and they would insist on this going to trial because the BTP were adamant this was a case that needed prosecuting because it was in the public interest.

Fortunately RMT were able to provide a great Solicitor who ridiculed the BTP/CPS position and when it came to it they withdrew the charges. Whilst this is a good result the fact is it should never have been allowed to develop. The RMT will be submitting a formal complaint to the Police complaint.

Say hello wave goodbye

After months of rumours, half truths and good old fashioned gossip the anticipated AM cull amounted to a few AMs swapping locations.

It may well be there is some reorganisation coming and the middle of next month has been mentioned by "those in the know." All we can say is beware the Ides Of March!



***** NEW BRANCH VENUE *****

The Jubilee South Branch meets every pay day (weds) at **The Kings Arms** on Borough High St, 1600-1800. The nearest tube stations are London Bridge and Borough.

All members are welcome. Current issues include short staffing on stations and trains, the red tabard nonsense, violent crime up on the Tube and further potential health risks from tunnel dust. Come along and join the debate.

The next meeting is on the 16th of January 2019 at 4pm.

For further information please speak to your local rep or contact our Branch Secretary Eamonn Lynch on 07578769943 / eamonnlynchrmt@outlook.com.