



# London Calling

The website of the London Transport Regional Council of the Rail, Maritime and Transport workers' union

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## **Still no funding agreement between Mayor and Government**

## **Tube workers will not pay for crisis with jobs or conditions**

- ★ **Any attempt to make tube and TfL workers pay will be met with a ballot for strike action**
- ★ **RMT is mounting a political campaign to demand full government funding for public transport at this time.**
- ★ **If the banks could be saved after 2008 then the jobs of working people and public services can be bailed out now.**

The idea that TfL could operate without government subsidy was always ridiculous. It was based on the fairy-tale of a never-ending increase in passenger numbers. The Covid pandemic has brought the crisis to a head quicker than anyone would have imagined this time last year. But it was a crisis that was always going to hit sooner or later.

The government and Mayor of London said they would agree a future funding arrangement by the end of September. They didn't. They then said they would announce a new funding arrangement before the existing deal ran out on 17 October. They have failed to deliver that too. Now we're told that TfL has been funded by government until the end of October. Who knows what we'll be faced with then?

Tory members of the London Assembly want your staff passes. They want to cut your pay by increasing employee pension contributions. The Mayor has shown that he's only too happy to pass cuts on to workers on the tube and in TfL. Meanwhile the government is demanding TfL extend the congestion zone and remove freedom passes.

RMT has a very clear position. We oppose passengers having to pay higher fares. We oppose the withdrawal of freedom passes. We will fight with everything we've got to defend members jobs, pay and conditions.

Can London afford to maintain tube workers pay and conditions? Yes. Introducing a similar level of public support to the tube as is provided by New York, Paris and other world cities for their subway and Metro systems would allow TfL to continue operating its services without fare increases or attacks on workers.

We must send a message to the mayor and to government. RMT will not accept any loss of jobs or deterioration in pay or conditions to make up for missing government subsidy. Get ready to strike if the bosses don't listen.

RMT has demanded an assurance from LUL that there will be no job losses and no deterioration in conditions as a result of the TfL budget crisis. If these assurances are not given then we will be in dispute.



## **We won't pay for TfL cuts with our Jobs or conditions**

# **RMT Charter for working during Covid pandemic**

**RMT reps are pressing TFL/LUL to agree to all of our demands for safe working during the Covid pandemic.**

**Remember that you have the right to refuse to do anything that puts you in serious and imminent danger at work. Make sure you know who your local RMT health & safety rep is and raise any concerns you have with them.**

**RMT is demanding -**

- ★ **All individual tasks must be risk assessed involving RMT safety reps.**
- ★ **Risks to BAME members must be assessed for their specific role and location and acted on.**
- ★ **All staff at additional risk should continue to be accommodated away from the workplace. No-one in this category should be forced to work.**
- ★ **2m social distancing must be maintained. Face coverings are no mitigation for 2m social distancing.**
- ★ **2m social distancing must apply when travelling to/from work. No-one should be forced to use a crowded bus or train.**
- ★ **Exemption from Congestion/emissions charges for TFL staff and contractors**
- ★ **PPE must to a standard agreed by safety reps. In public areas a clear visor and FFP2/ N95 mask should be made available to any member of staff who wants them.**
- ★ **Workers using LUL/TfL road vehicles must be able to socially distance.**
- ★ **Social distancing rosters and reduced staffing levels should be implemented as widely as possible and be regularly reviewed by reps. Any changes to staffing levels should be by agreement. Where reps agree it is safe and necessary to do so, temporary staffing levels should be increased where the service level demands it.**
- ★ **Plans to increase engineering work and train preparation should be driven by what can be achieved safely and while maintaining social distancing and not by demands to run a full service from government.**
- ★ **Station staff must be able to maintain social distancing in all stations including in public areas.**
- ★ **Station staff should remain behind glass as far as possible.**
- ★ **Train operator duties must be re-designed with input from RMT safety reps to ensure social distancing, minimise risk and address the various concerns of train operators.**
- ★ **Pay must be restored to all who refused to work because of fears for safety. The proper refusal to work process must be followed.**
- ★ **All workers on TFL/LUL must continue to receive their full pay throughout this crisis. Whether employed by a contractor like cleaners and many engineers or self-employed like many protection staff – All workers who work directly or indirectly for TFL must be treated fairly. TFL should underwrite the pay of all when furloughed, laid-off, sick or isolating.**