

London Transport Region 24.3.20

# Coronavirus Crisis: LUL & Government Must Act Now



★ **LUL must reduce usage now**

★ **Government must shut down construction sites and guarantee pay of all self-employed/Gig economy workers**

★ **Agreed enhanced cleaning plans must be put into action now**

★ **Station staff must be told to work behind glass and only work in public areas when essential for safety reasons**

★ **All non-essential maintenance must be cancelled. TFL must guarantee pay of all self-employed workers in its orbit**

RMT is today putting these demands directly to LUL's Managing Director.

Members have shown a huge commitment to keep the tube running in spite of the obvious risk to tube-workers who are work.

We have made some progress. ABM cleaners are getting paid full sick pay if isolating or sick with coronavirus. But LUL, the mayor and government have failed to deal with the key issues confronting members at work.

★ **LUL must reduce usage now**

It is ridiculous to have people being fined for congregating in groups of more than 2 while, at the same time, stuffing hundreds into a tube carriage where people struggle to maintain 2 inches of social distancing, let alone 2 metres.

★ **Government must shut down construction sites and guarantee pay of all self-employed/Gig economy workers**

We know that crowding is mainly affecting services early in the morning from areas with high numbers of self-employed and gig economy workers.

Many are travelling into work because the alternative is to be without any income .

The wages of ALL workers must be guaranteed to relieve the pressure on people to travel to work. Construction sites should be shut down unless they are building medical or other essential facilities.

★ **Agreed enhanced cleaning plans must be put into action now**

We have been promised additional cleaners and new enhanced cleaning procedures but we are not seeing them on the ground.

It's not the fault of cleaners, who are doing the most dangerous work on the system with nowhere near the level of additional staff, equipment and training they need at this time. There has to be an immediate step change in the cleaning arrangements on the job.

RMT believes that LUL should immediately take the cleaners in-house and take control of the cleaning.

★ **Station staff must be told to work behind glass and only work in public areas when essential for safety reasons**

In spite of assurances given by senior managers we still have local station managers telling members to stand on gatelines and assist at POMs. Enough is enough. It has to stop. Station staff must be able to work behind glass unless there is a safety related need to go out into a public area.

It is impossible to maintain 2m social distancing while assisting at POMS. Gates should be set to open unless being used to control flow. POMs should be turned off. The government is throwing hundreds of billions of pounds at helping business in this crisis. A few quid someone didn't pay for a tube journey is hardly going to tip us over the edge!

**★All non-essential maintenance must be cancelled. TFL must guarantee pay of all self-employed workers in its orbit**

We still have huge work groups booking on at stations or going out to trackside locations carrying out work that is not essential to maintain the safety and functionality of the service.

All non-essential work must stop. Social distancing is not being maintained on work-sites.

There must be no pressure on our self-employed members, including protection staff and other engineering members, to come in. The pay of ALL self-employed members must be guaranteed. LUL must also cover any reduction of wages to any member working for any subcontractor as a result of not being able to work during this crisis.

**★RMT will tell LUL that without these measures being agreed and implemented immediately we will be unable to advise our members that we consider it safe to come to work.**

**★We have no PPE to reduce the risk of coronavirus and we must be able to work in accordance with the government's social distancing advice.**

**★We are committed to providing the best service we can at this difficult time but that cannot be achieved if we are unable to even implement the basic guidelines for social distancing and safe working.**

**★These points will be put to LUL at the highest level today.**



## **RMT Accepts 4 Year Pay Deal and will Return to Issue of Working Hours ASAP**

**A discussion between RMT IR and H&S staff side secretaries/ leads took place yesterday morning. Following this meeting the NEC discussed LUL's current 4-Year pay offer. The NEC has instructed the General Secretary to inform LUL that we accept the offer. London Underground has repeated that they remain committed to reviewing working hours and we will return to this issue ASAP.**

We will now turn all our energies into seeking to reduce the risk to members who are keeping the tube running in these exceptional times. At present overcrowding in many areas is making a mockery of social distancing and is subjecting our members to an unacceptable level of risk. We also have a battle on our hands to protect the pay of our many self-employed members in the LTRC region who face being laid off without pay. I will be putting out a bulletin on all these issues ASAP.

**The full decision of the NEC is reproduced below.**

"We note the discussion that took place with our LUL Level2 and Tier 2 reps this morning.

London Underground has explicitly used the Coronavirus crisis to present their unsatisfactory pay offer as an ultimatum. The offer does not make progress on the key issue of working hours, shifts and fatigue.

RMT members and reps have spent many months in negotiation with LUL seeking to secure a shorter contractual week and the need to address the long-term health impacts of shift work has not gone away.

However, at this time RMT members on LUL are rightly focused on ensuring our safety while we maintain a service on the tube. The 4-year offer does give our members security from both inflation and deflation over the next three years and therefore protects our real pay.

We also note that LUL has stated they remain committed to addressing our concerns over working hours and RMT will return to this issue as soon as we are in a position to do so.

The General Secretary is now instructed to inform LUL that we will accept the four-year pay offer that offers RPI +0.2% for each year from 2019-2023 with a guarantee of a minimum increase of 1% for 2021/22 and 2% for 2022/3.

We are in no doubt that once we come out the other side of the coronavirus crisis employers and government will seek to recover the costs of dealing with this crisis from the working class. In this situation we will, at least, have protected our members from attacks on pay. We will, of course, resist all other attacks on jobs or conditions.

RMT thanks members for their steadfast support of our fight to address working hours during the recent negotiations. We will now continue to strive to ensure our members, and those with whom we live, are not placed at unnecessary risk as we provide a tube service for essential users in London."