



August 2020 - [rmtlondoncalling.org.uk](http://rmtlondoncalling.org.uk)

# Resist cuts and privatisation!



**As we approach the autumn and the end of TfL's first funding bailout so disastrously negotiated by the Mayor, it's clear that the government will soon be looking for payback.**

The Tory Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, has authorised massive spending to keep businesses afloat, but the furlough scheme ends in October and he'll be looking to put the "magic money tree" back in the bankers' financial greenhouse and to rejuvenate it with our sacrifices.

The bosses' favourite carve up merchants, accountancy firm KPMG, have been instructed to conduct an audit with a view to seeing what "workforce modernisations" and "efficiency savings" they can extract; for them that means job cuts, pay cuts, and privatising and shovelling public wealth into private hands.

But why should we pay?

Why should the same key workers who kept, and continue to keep, the system running all through the Covid crisis, foot the bill? And why should workers whose industries had to be temporarily closed down have to pay the bill?

### ORGANISE

**Some LU unions have, quite rightly, begun to organise for the confrontation to come.**

RMT has sought assurances from LU that the Covid crisis will not lead to any attack on members' terms and conditions, staffing levels, or any of the agreements currently in place between the company and our unions.

Aslef has likewise sought the same assurances, but of course, neither they nor RMT has received such a guarantee, leading Aslef to organise a very successful combine-wide reps meeting and subsequently to declare a formal dispute, with a ballot for industrial action due to launch on 26 August.

At least one RMT branch (LU Engineering), has called for RMT to launch our own ballot, because it's abundantly clear that there can be no "single union" or "single function" solution to the current crisis.

As we've already seen with ticket offices being closed and station jobs being cut under the laughably named "Fit For The Future" scheme, or white collar, admin, and engineering jobs being slashed via "Transformation", the axe doesn't always fall on everyone at the same time, and that means we should collectively defend each and every sector under threat. Whatever the shortcomings of the fight over Fit For The Future, it would have been far worse had we not operated as an all-grades union with involvement from workers in Signals, Engineering, Trains, Service Control, etc.

If TfL/LU talk of job losses, we should not ask "how many?", or "how soon?"

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We should talk about how best we resist, how best we defend our hard-won terms and conditions, and bear in mind that nothing we now have was won without a fight.

There is nothing inevitable about the outcome of the future of London Underground's financing, and the better organised we are to resist then the more favourable the outcome will be.

Our aim as a trade union isn't to get the "least-worst" compromise out of negotiations - for example a recruitment freeze rather than redundancies, or avoiding cuts to so-called "frontline" jobs by cutting "non-frontline" jobs instead. Our position should be "not a job, not a penny". The jobs we're in aren't ours to sell or let go; we need to ensure there are well-paid jobs for the next generation of Tube workers, recruited on the same terms and conditions, including the same pensions, as we have now.

RMT members on every station, wherever we work, could usefully set up an informal "action committee" to act as the local arm of the campaign the union is now building: to ensure everyone of all grades is in the union, to distribute union newsletters and info, to coordinate action from the grassroots, and to pilot through their relevant union branches immediate responses to whatever the crisis throws at us.

Lastly, we should have no truck with talk of being "in it together" with our bosses (either our current ones in Palestra and City Hall, or the government officials newly appointed to the TfL board), and nor with any talk of "keeping our powder dry" for a later battle, or being told to roll with it this time around, but fight back next time "if they come for our pensions", etc.

**The threat posed by the spending review is immediate and needs to be fought.**

## What can you do?

- **Read the terms of reference the government has announced for the KPMG-led review.** It's important all Tube workers are clear about the threat we're facing: [bit.ly/tory-terms](https://bit.ly/tory-terms)

- **Distribute this newsletter in your station.** Talk to your workmates about it.

- **Get involved in your local RMT branch.** They're the basic units of democratic decision making within the union, and any move towards ballots for industrial action will be made on the basis of branch resolutions. If you don't know when and where your branch meets, speak to your local RMT rep.

- **Support other workers fighting back.** Any resistance to job cuts and attacks on terms and conditions can give workers elsewhere the confidence to launch their own disputes. For example, Tower Hamlets council workers are currently striking against mass sackings, visit their union website at [towerhamlets.unison.site](https://towerhamlets.unison.site).

- **Sign and circulate RMT's statement demanding full funding for TfL/LU:** [bit.ly/funding-statement](https://bit.ly/funding-statement)

### Your RMT Stations and Revenue Functional Council (Level Two) reps

Your first point of contact with the union should always be your local rep. If you can't reach them, please contact the Level Two rep responsible for supporting reps in your branch.

**Paul Schindler** – Central Line West ; RCI reps  
(07730 032665)

**Marie Harrington** – Piccadilly & District West ; East Ham  
(07814 740308)

**Glen Hart** – Jubilee South ; Central Line East  
(07809 471289)

**Mac McKenna** – Morden & Oval ; Camden 3  
(07801 071363)

**Daniel Randall** – Bakerloo ; Neasden (07961 040618)

**Norman Thomson** – Hammersmith & City ; Finsbury Park  
(07853 288184)

