



# Bakerloo news



**February 2026**

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## Resist imposition of Trains Modernisation 2.0!

**RMT opposes London Underground's plan to lengthen the working day and reduce driver headcount by imposing their version of a "four-day-week".**

Unfortunately, our sister union has sided with the employer, instead of uniting with us to defend terms and conditions.

**Does this mean we're satisfied with the status quo? No.**

RMT wants a shorter working week for all Tube workers, including drivers, based on reducing the contractual week and increasing headcount.

In our 2025 pay claim, we proposed that, if the principle of reducing the working week was agreed, this could be negotiated on a function-by-function basis, to ensure existing rights and conditions were protected.

**How can we win it?**

We have to make clear to the company that it will cost them more, via the impact of industrial

action, not to concede these demands than to maintain their position that any changes must be "cost neutral".

Any such action will be stronger if Aslef members who want to see real improvements to our terms and conditions join our strikes, rather than crossing our picket lines.

By refusing to challenge LUL's insistence on "cost neutrality", Aslef has effectively surrendered to the employer and agreed that any changes we want must be "paid for" by selling off some of our existing conditions.

RMT rejects this model of trade unionism. We believe unions should fight to level up our conditions, rather than horse-trading hard-won rights and protections.

As the old slogan goes, "If you fight, you may not win. But if you don't fight, you've already lost."

We can't guarantee that a renewed push for a real reduction in the working week will succeed.

**But we know for sure that accepting the LUL/Aslef scheme will mean an erosion of our existing conditions.**

RMT is balloting all Train Operator and Instructor Operatort members for strikes to resist the imposition of the company's proposal for a longer working day.

**Vote Yes/Yes for strikes and action short of strike. Return your ballot by 24 February. If you don't receive a ballot paper, speak to a rep.**

*RMT Bakerloo News is the newsletter of the RMT Bakerloo line branch.*

**The branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month, 16:00, at Doreen Ramsey Court, 108 The Cut, SE18LN. All members are welcome.**

To get involved, or for any questions about the union, please contact branch secretary Mel Mullings on [melbmullingscomms@gmail.com](mailto:melbmullingscomms@gmail.com), 07718 645817



**On 16 January, senior boss Nick Dent sent a letter to unions announcing iPads would be distributed to all Instructor Operators. He said this was “unconnected” to the implementation of the 4DW scheme.**

Then, on 28 January, LUL bosses told a meeting of the Trains Functional Council that iPad distribution was part of the 4DW scheme after all, but that iPads would only be given to “volunteer Train Operators” who signed up to be part of the scheme.

## iPads: unanswered questions

So who's right, Dent, or the management reps on TFC?

RMT doesn't oppose the introduction of new technology, but it must be used to make our jobs better and safer, not as a pretext for scaling back human functions and cutting jobs. Our fear is that the implementation of iPads presages remote booking-on.

**For now, given the company (or at least, one cohort of its managers) is saying use of iPads is “voluntary”, RMT encourages members not to volunteer to receive one.**

## Prep time proposal: unsafe and unworkable

**As part of the 4DW scheme, the company wants to cut the time allocated to drivers by prep trains.**

They want drivers to board trains from the rear, so we just walk through once. Bakerloo drivers will realise how ridiculous this is. There are multiple stabling locations where it is physically impossible, or extremely unsafe, to board a train from the rear, including North and South Sheds, Raods 1-5 at London Road, and most roads at

Stonebridge.

The new prep time proposal ignores the actual layout of depots and sidings, increases unnecessary walking, introduces avoidable safety risks, and delivers no meaningful time saving whatsoever.

**This proposal is detached from operational reality, provides no benefit to drivers, and prioritises convenience over safety. It is unworkable, unsafe, and a complete waste of time.**

## Cleaners: Fighting for sick pay, improved pensions, and in-house employment!

**TfL has outsourced the cleaning contract again, missing an opportunity to bring cleaning in-house.**

A new company, Mitie, is due to take over in April. RMT is demanding increased wages, a decent sick pay scheme, and improved pensions. Ultimately we want TfL to bring the contract in-house. Mayor Khan says that a

“pilot” will take place to investigate the feasibility of insourcing cleaners. But if he wants to do it, why has he just outsourced the contract for another five years?

**RMT will protest at City Hall on 4 February, and may ballot cleaners for industrial action soon. Join RMT today and be part of the fight.**

## RMT Bakerloo secretary runs for national political party role

**RMT Bakerloo line branch secretary Mel Mullings is standing for the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of Your Party, the new political party founded by Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana.**

Mel is standing for one of the London regional seats, alongside Anahita Zardoshti, as part of the Grassroots Left slate.

Mel writes: “From the July 2025 immigration law changes which hit transport workers hard by narrowing visa eligibility and stripping dependant rights to the continued exploitation of outsourced cleaners on poverty wages, the working class is being abandoned. We cannot wait for reports to tell us what we already know.

“Your Party is the political vehicle we need, rooted in our communities and social movements. We have been discussing the RMT's involvement in the development of this new party; this election is our opportunity to make that a reality.”

Anyone who joins Your Party before 5 February will be able to vote. For more on Mel's campaign and platform, see [grassrootsleft.org](https://grassrootsleft.org).

Other candidates include Ruth Cashman, chair of Lambeth TUC, to which our branch is affiliated.

*NB: Mel is running for this position in a personal capacity; this article is published for information.*

## CONTACT YOUR REPS

Scan to access the RMT Bakerloo reps' directory

