



London Calling

News and views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

September 2010

Take Action to Stop Job Cuts

Following overwhelming votes in the two unions' ballots, RMT and TSSA have called industrial action to stop London Underground's job cuts. The action is as follows.

OVERTIME BAN

All grades: Do not work any overtime from 00.01, Monday 6 September until further notice. This includes rest day working and working through your meal break.

STRIKE

The unions have called a series of 24-hour strikes, as follows ...

Ex-Metronet grades

Do not work from 17:00, Monday 6 September until 16:59, Tuesday 7 September

- Similarly on Sunday 3 / Monday 4 October, on Tuesday 2 / Wednesday 3 November, and Sunday 28 / Monday 29 November

This means that if you work in LU engineering and fleet grades, you and your workmates will 'down tools' at 5pm on the start date and return to work at 5pm on the finish dates. No work is to be done between those times.



All other London Underground grades (stations, revenue control, trains, service control, managers, admin)

Do not book on for any shifts commencing between 21:00, Monday 6 September and 20:59, Tuesday 7 September

- Similarly on Sunday 3 / Monday 4 October, on Tuesday 2 / Wednesday 3 November, and Sunday 28 / Monday 29 November

This means that you will not attend work for one full shift - either the Monday night turn or the Tuesday day turn.

eg. For the first strike date, if you are on a 'dead late' on Monday and Tuesday, say 17:00-01:00, then you work the full shift on the Monday, and do not work the full shift on the Tuesday. You do not walk out at 19:00 on the start day nor do you come in at 20:59 on the finish date to complete the final hours of a shift.

Or in other words ... If you are already on duty when the strike begins on Monday at 19:00 you continue your duty until the end of the shift. On the second day, if your shift starts before 18:59 you do not book on at all, even if the shift continues beyond that time.

If you have any questions about how the industrial action works, please speak to your local RMT rep or your branch secretary.

Picket Your Workplace

You can help make the strikes as effective as possible by joining others in picketing your workplace.

RMT and TSSA will be picketing many stations, train crew depots, engineering workplaces, service control centres and admin buildings.

On a picket line, you can peacefully persuade anyone who turns up for work not to book on. You can hand out leaflets to passers-by explaining why we are striking. And you can spend time in the company of your workmates, knowing that you are standing up for a vital principle and defending jobs, services and safety.

Your RMT branch will help you with travel arrangements and refreshments, and the picket will be well-decorated and lively!

Ask your local RMT rep or branch secretary for details of your area's picket. Or if you would prefer to support a picket line nearer your home, please text 07910-202225 for info.



Travellers on London Underground do not want job cuts that would lead to reduced safety levels

and reduced morale amongst staff.

Janet Shapiro, retired lecturer

Just to say that there are Tube users who support you in your dispute.

Oisín Gilmore

Best of luck in your fight to save jobs and defend the health and safety of Tube users.

Philip Lewis, Vice Chair, Camden Unison

Congratulations on getting some action organised - don't let them get away with this. People's safety is at stake here. More important than profit or balancing financial chequebooks I think. Good luck!

Mike Hill, Westminster UNISON, Health & Safety Officer

Never mind what the bosses' press says! We know what you're doing is right. Solidarity!

Tom Dale, GMB

Tube stations need staff at all times for passenger safety and help. Despite excellent tube maps the network can still be confusing to visitors and even to a native like me. At quiet times being alone is worrying; just seeing a staff member at the other end of the platform is a comfort. Keep up the good work. Keep our train network safe and pleasant.

Rosalind Levy, GMB

I hope your struggle inspires the whole movement so we can take the workers' fight from underground to the streets and all the way into the skies!

Gilaine Young, Branch Organiser, PCS NATS Heathrow

We've got a lot to do to get the public to not accept 'austerity' and to fight, and that means explaining how the impact on the Tube all the way through to social care workers' sick pay being axed have the same root. It requires unity and action - good luck!

Max Munday, Unite Shop Steward for Turning Point services in Yorkshire

Good luck with your fight.

Stephen Miller, Box Office staff (BECTU)

At a meeting of the anti-cuts campaign in Brent we agreed to support the tube workers as part of the fight back against the attack on public spending and jobs, and also for health and safety reasons.

All the best.

Pete Firmin, President, Brent TUC

Best of luck. Make management wish they'd not come up with this idea in the first place.

Clive Walder, CWU Assistant Secretary, Birmingham, Black Country and Worcester

All the best with winning this dispute. It's good to know that the RMT is protecting our safety.

Sandra Griffiths, UCU

I support the RMT members in their struggle to maintain public services.

Christine McCabe, volunteer driver for blind people

I fully support the Tube unions in their campaign to keep jobs on the Underground. Cuts will be detrimental to safety.

Stuart Watkin, Tooting Labour Party GC & Unite member (personal capacity)

All grades unite against job cuts

Right now, London Underground is preparing to cut around 800 station jobs. But the job cuts do not stop there.

The company also plans to scrap 27 train drivers' posts, as it introduces new timetables and abolishes rostered TeamTalk.

It is running a trial to carry out maintenance checks on trains every four weeks instead of every two. This will lead to job losses as well as compromising safety.

And London Underground is now regularly sacking staff for mistakes that would have got you just a warning a few years ago.

Like a Russian doll, once one set of jobs is cast aside, another round of job cuts emerges.

Our fight is to defend jobs across all of London Underground. It is a fight for all grades. We all work together to run the Tube. Running the train service needs drivers, engineers, station staff, service control, admin and more.



Alstom strikes for decent pay

Alstom-Metro train-maintenance workers at depots on the Jubilee and Northern lines are to strike after voting by more than 7:1 for action and to reject an insulting sub-inflation pay offer.

RMT members will begin their first 24-hour strike at 19:00 on Sunday September 5, with further action scheduled for the same time on Saturday October 2; Monday November 1, and Saturday November 27. An indefinite overtime ban will also begin at a minute after midnight on Sunday September 5.

RMT General Secretary Bob Crow said: "Alstom is a major transnational company that has been making immense profits and is happy to shovel dividends to its shareholders, but has offered what would amount to a pay cut to our members.

"The deal on offer is worth less than half of those won by other Tube workers this year, and the massive vote for action should tell Alstom all they need to know about our members' determination to win a fair pay deal."

Join



- Get a form from your local RMT rep
- Phone 0800-376-3706
- Join online: www.rmt.org.uk/join