



# Bakerloo news



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## Fight job cuts at Queen's Park!

### Bosses plan to slash more than 10% of the workforce



**London Underground management has announced plans to cut more than 10% of the workforce at Queen's Park train depot.**

They intend to reduce the number of drivers on the rota from 101 to 90, and reduce pool drivers from six to five.

RMT's policy is absolutely clear: we oppose all job cuts. Reps have pressed management for more info on the background to these cuts, but the justification seems to be that a combination of financial concerns and a reduction in Network Rail services require fewer drivers. We do not accept this argument. Frontline workers should not have to pay for any budgetary deficits with their jobs.

Management's plan also involves the creation of three new part-time weekend driver positions at the depot. We support the creation of additional positions, including part-time positions, across the job, but not as part of cuts packages. Whilst

the new positions may slightly improve existing drivers' work/life balance, they in no way offset the loss of 12 positions.

Even if bosses are able to manage the cuts in a way that avoids displacing any existing staff, the deletions of these positions still deprives future workers of a job opportunity.

If management get away with these cuts, they will surely expand the use of these salami-slicing tactics as a first-resort response to similar situations elsewhere. We could see staffing levels at other depots, or other workplaces, similarly slashed.

As *Bakerloo News* went to press, drivers' reps were due to meet the company again on 12 February to discuss the proposals again. Trains Functional Council reps and the Regional Organiser will also be raising the issue with LU management at the highest level.

**We have to use all means at our disposal to stop these cuts in their tracks.**

*Bakerloo News* is a monthly newsletter from the Bakerloo branch of the RMT union. To submit a story for *Bakerloo News*, or to contact the branch, please email [jimmcdaid36@gmail.com](mailto:jimmcdaid36@gmail.com), or ring Branch Secretary Jim McDaid on 07917 131692

### Defend pensions!

**The "Independent Review" commissioned by the TfL Board and Sadiq Khan into finance and funding has delivered its recommendations.**

The biggest alarm bell is the claim that our staff pension scheme is "outdated and must be reformed". There's no doubt what "reformed" means in this context: cut.

We should not accept any increase in employee contributions, any decrease in employer contributions, or any proposal to close the current terms to new entrants, which would create a discriminatory two-tier setup within a scheme that already discriminates by not being accessible to outsourced staff.

Unless management guarantees no changes to the status quo as a minimum, we must prepare for action.

**That was the strong consensus from a virtual members' meeting held on 14 January, attended by hundreds of LU workers. Get active in your union and build the fightback.**

## SRT update

Thanks to pressure from our Health and Safety rep, RMT has won a reduction in the number of locations SRT, to limit exposure and maximise distancing in all locations.

This means that SRT staff on an "on call" day are highly likely to remain at home, and also creates the potential to argue for the reinstatement of the second "on call" day.

The SRT IR rep is also addressing the issue of Long Term Absence coverage once again, as it transpired an SRT worker had to pay £80 to get a private cab home from a dead late shift. Other SRT staff have been forced to stay at homes outside their bubbles due to being left with no means of getting home after a shift.

**Staff taxi routes are insufficient, and unlike local staff who often choose to live reasonable distance to their stations, SRT have to navigate many routes and as expected this is a serious problem.**

## South Group update

**After three years of dedicated service, South Group IR rep Jim Lloyd has stepped down from his role.**

Jim expresses his gratitude to fellow workers and union members on the group for their support over the past three years, especially during the short staffing dispute in 2018/2019, which saw South Group station staff vote for strikes and ended with a settlement that secured additional positions.

**Bakerloo News thanks Jim for all his hard work, and sends best wishes to his successor, due to be elected at the 2 February branch meeting.**

# Take action for workplace safety

**As Bakerloo News goes to press, Covid-19 infection rates are falling slowly and the vaccination programme is progressing.**

Those facts are both causes for hope and cautious optimism, but not complacency. It is still vital that we monitor and police workplace safety, to ensure ourselves, our workmates, and our passengers are as safe as possible in the context of the ongoing pandemic.

Emergency safety measures put in place earlier in the pandemic need to be reinforced and bolstered. This includes:

- Distancing measures in the workplace, including in staff accommodation
- Emergency Covid rosters to reduce the number of workers in work at any one time, and maximise distancing
- Working from behind glass on stations - e.g., in SCRs or GLAPs - wherever possible
- Adequate PPE for all staff, including outsourced workers
- Ensuring ABM honours its commitment to pay full pay for sickness and self-isolation for cleaners



According to Section 44 of the 1996 Employment Rights Act, all workers have the right to refuse work that would place themselves or others in "serious and imminent" danger. Although this right can be exercised on an individual basis, it's much more powerful if done as part of a collective action - such as that undertaken by school workers in early January, when the government wanted to impose full reopening on schools despite soaring infection rates. Workers collectively submitted letters to school managements exercising their Section 44 rights to refuse unsafe work and succeeded in forcing a government u-turn.

**If managers ask you and your workmates to work in a way that you feel is unsafe, discuss the issue with each other and with union reps, and agree a collective response.**

## Solidarity forever!

**Bakerloo News sends its support and solidarity to all workers fighting to defend and extend their rights:**

British Gas workers, who are striking to resist attempts by bosses to sack the workforce en masse and re-hire them on worse terms and conditions. Read more about their campaign, and donate to their strike fund, at: [bit.ly/gmb-bg](http://bit.ly/gmb-bg).

Care workers at the Sage care home in North London, fighting for

wages of £12/hour, and parity with NHS workers' terms and conditions, including full sick pay. More info at: [bit.ly/uvw-sage](http://bit.ly/uvw-sage).

Firefighters, whose bosses have withdrawn from a safety agreement over the terms under which firefighters can assist with healthcare work. More here: [bit.ly/fbu-safety](http://bit.ly/fbu-safety)

**We're part of the same class, the same movement, and the same struggle. Solidarity!**

**BRANCH MEETINGS AT 16:00 ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, VIA ZOOM. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME. CONTACT YOUR REP FOR THE LINK.**