



# Bakerloo news



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May 2020 Happy May Day, International Workers' Day!

For workers' control to ensure safe workplaces

## No to imposed service increases

As Tube workers continue to provide an essential service to ensure other critical workers can get around, discussions are now beginning about a possible increase in the service.

RMT's position on this matter is clear: there is no case to increase the service at this time. With public health guidance on social distancing still in place, we will oppose any attempt to increase the service in a way that will expose workers, or indeed passengers, to unnecessary risk.

A document leaked to the *Guardian* showed that the maximum service LU could run whilst still complying with current social distancing guidelines is 12%. A 50% service would require a maximum social distancing of 0.5m.

Any increase in the service would have impacts across the board - on drivers, station staff, cleaners, service controllers, and fleet staff. Safety has to come first, and we must fight for



the maximum degree of workers' control over how the job is organised. This means that any decisions about increasing the service should be taken by the workers expected to deliver that increase, not imposed from above by managers far removed from the frontline. If we're not satisfied that the service can be increased safely, then it shouldn't be.

LU needs to take further action to improve safety, including the full provision of adequate PPE for all staff, and proper distancing measures, using one-way systems, barriers, etc., maintained in all stations. Handwashing stations, to facilitate handwashing on entry for all passengers, recommended by the World Health Organisation, should also be explored.

RMT reps will continue to press the company for these safety measures.

If any service increase is imposed without union agreement, *Bakerloo News* reminds all readers that, under Section 44 of the 1996 Employment Rights Act, all workers have the right to refuse to work if to do so would place them or others in "serious and imminent danger."

**DISCRIMINATION SCANDAL:** Furloughed cleaners face 20% pay cut. See over for more.

### Reinstate Ezra Christian!

London Underground has callously dismissed Bakerloo driver and RMT member Ezra Christian.

Ezra was sacked following an incident which occurred due to the unworkable timetable on the line, against which drivers struck last month. LU's decision means Ezra has been robbed of his livelihood at this uncertain and difficult time.

Please sign the petition to demand Ezra's reinstatement at [bit.ly/ezra-petition](https://bit.ly/ezra-petition)

## SRT update

**Union reps in the SRT were successful in negotiating a reduced working week for the majority of SRT staff.**

Under the temporary rostering arrangements, full-time and part-time weekday CSAs are being allocated two "on-call" duties alongside, on average, three normal rostered duties per week. For on-call duties staff only need to book on at a station if called in by SRT managers. If not called in, staff can remain in the safety of their homes. This means less time commuting, less time on stations, and less time around customers - all of which means less risk to staff of being in environments where coronavirus may be present. A similar arrangement was worked out for CSS and CSM grades of the SRT. So far no CSAs have been called in during on-call duties.

**This means that, thanks to union pressure, we've been able to follow public health guidance on SRT and eliminate non-essential work.**

**Your branch meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month, 16.00, via the Zoom video conferencing app until further notice. Please download the app to participate. All members welcome.**

*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

# Furloughed cleaners face 20% pay cut



**Cleaning contractor ABM has announced it intends to use the government's "Job Retention Scheme" to "furlough" (place on leave) some cleaners.**

Under this scheme, the government subsidises 80% of workers' wages, with employers having the option to top up the remaining 20%. ABM has informed RMT it will not be doing this, meaning any cleaner who is furloughed faces a 20% pay cut.

This is a scandalous attack on the livelihoods of some of the worst-paid workers on the Tube. While TfL/LU will be topping up the 20% for any of its own direct employees who are furloughed, furloughed cleaners, who are as much part of the permanent, core LU workforce as drivers or station staff, face a pay cut. The announcement came days after TfL confirmed in writing to RMT that it did "not deem it appropriate" to provide cleaners with staff travel passes.

The message is clear: "Thanks for risking your lives to keep our Tube system clean and safe, but don't expect the same benefits and conditions as the other LU workers you work alongside every day."

The situation could also create a serious public health risk, as cleaners who are symptomatic or unwell may return to work sooner than it's safe, in order to avoid being furloughed and having their pay cut. This places not only them, but all the other staff and passengers they interact with, at risk.

This inequality and discrimination against an overwhelmingly migrant and

BAME workforce shames London. RMT will be taking this fight to ABM, TfL/LU, and the Mayor to demand full pay for furloughed cleaners, and equality between outsourced and directly employed staff.

**Ultimately the solution is for TfL/LU to end the scandal of outsourcing altogether, and employ cleaners and other outsourced workers directly.**

**SIGN THE PETITION TO DEMAND FULL FURLOUGH PAY AND EQUALITY FOR TUBE CLEANERS:**  
[bit.ly/cleaners-petition](https://bit.ly/cleaners-petition)

More online resources available at [rmtlondoncalling.org.uk](https://rmtlondoncalling.org.uk)

## SOLIDARITY AND CONDOLENCES

We send our solidarity to our sister Anusha Bates, CSA at Piccadilly Circus, whose husband Wijey tragically passed away from Covid-19 on 30 April. Anusha's workmates have set up a fund to help with funeral costs. Donate here: [bit.ly/wijeyfund](https://bit.ly/wijeyfund)

**Our deepest condolences to Anusha, her family, and all those affected by the virus.**