



# Bakerloo news



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November 2018

South Group stations:

## Prepare for action to fight short staffing!

Fed up of being on a gateline on your own, or having only one colleague when there should be two? Having to work without breaks because there's no-one to relieve you? Getting hammered by angry punters when the POMs fail, and there's not enough staff in the ticket hall to deal with it? It's time to take a stand!

RMT has declared an official dispute with LU on the Bakerloo South Group, over the issue of coverage and short-staffing.

If you've worked an early turn at Oxford Circus recently, you'll be familiar with the experience of being incredibly short-staffed on the Argyll Gateline during the peaks, with workers sometimes having to work alone. Similar problems exist elsewhere on the group.

These issues have arisen due to a combination of factors: unfilled vacancies, management's penny-pinching refusal to cover "non-critical" duties on overtime, and the fundamental biggie, a staffing level that's simply too low to deal with the needs of the station.

Management have now imposed a "traffic light" system on duties, whereby each duty is designated red, amber, or green.



Traffic lights? All duties must be covered!

"Red" duties (mainly extreme turns where an uncovered duty could lead to a station closure) will always be covered, but "amber" and "green" duties... not so much.

Having the odd uncovered duty throughout the day might not seem like a lot on paper, but that's one fewer person on a gateline or in the ticket hall when it matters. If you're left to pick up the slack, you feel it.

We're not here to beg for overtime, but our position is that all duties must be covered. If that can't be done without OT, then the staffing level needs to be revisited.

We want a commitment from

management that all duties will be covered, all the time. Longer-term we want management to resource the creation of additional jobs to address the underlying issues.

Now that we are in dispute with LU, we will begin preparations to ballot members for industrial action.

**Speak to your local reps (contact details provided below) to ensure your details are up-to-date with the union, so your ballot paper gets sent to the right address.**

**BAKERLOO  
SOUTH RMT  
REPS**



Jim Lloyd (Industrial) - 07930  
820402 - jimllloyd1@hotmail.co.uk

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## North Group:

# Union pressure forces concessions

RMT has been pressing management on the issue of non-covered duties and unstaffed stations north of Queen's Park since the summer.

Over a three-month period from July-September, stations were left unstaffed 34 times, according to LU's own figures.

Many of the issues are similar to the South Group: management were refusing to cover "non-critical" duties on overtime, in order to save money.

Since RMT began raising the issue, the situation has improved. Uncovered duties are now less common and the instances of stations being left unstaffed have decreased.

There's no doubt that union pressure, via formal channels within LU, has been vital. If management

### BAKERLOO NORTH RMT REPS

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Health & Safety position  
currently vacant.

didn't feel under pressure, they'd have had a free reign to continue the practise of non-covering duties.

Management also agreed to request that the

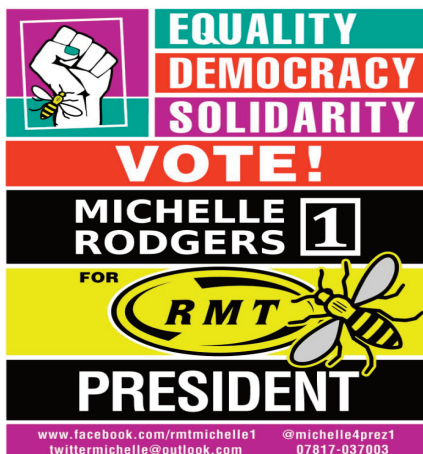


vacant CSA2 position at Harrow and Wealdstone be upgraded to a CSA1 position. This would meet RMT's policy of upgrading as many CSA2 positions as possible, as well as making the vacancy much more likely to get filled, meaning there'll be an additional member of staff at Harrow & Wealdstone during the weekends.

We need to keep our eyes on the ball over the next weeks and months. If there's any backsliding, or a return to a practise of regularly leaving duties uncovered, we need to move towards a dispute.

**If you work on the North Group, make sure you log an EIRF whenever a station is left unstaffed, and communicate any info about uncovered duties to your local reps.**

## Vote Michelle Rodgers



RMT Bakerloo Line branch has nominated MICHELLE RODGERS in the forthcoming RMT National President elections, and encourages all branch members to vote for her. Ballots will be delivered from 1 October. If you haven't received a ballot, speak to your local rep.

The key principles of Michelle's campaign are:

### DEMOCRACY

Ensuring all members can have their say; holding national officers to account to make sure democratic decisions are carried out; making the union's culture more open and participatory.

### EQUALITY

Fighting for equality within the union and in society; supporting women, BAME, LGBT, and disabled members' committees to improve diversity and representation within the union.

### SOLIDARITY

Any group of members who want to take action will be supported, not discouraged or held back.

Your branch meets on the **FIRST TUESDAY** of every month, 16.00, upstairs at The Royal Exchange, 26 Sale Place, W2 1PU (Edgware Road H&C). All members welcome.

The Regional Council meets on the **LAST THURSDAY** of every month, 16.30, at the 12 Pins, next to Finsbury Park station.

*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