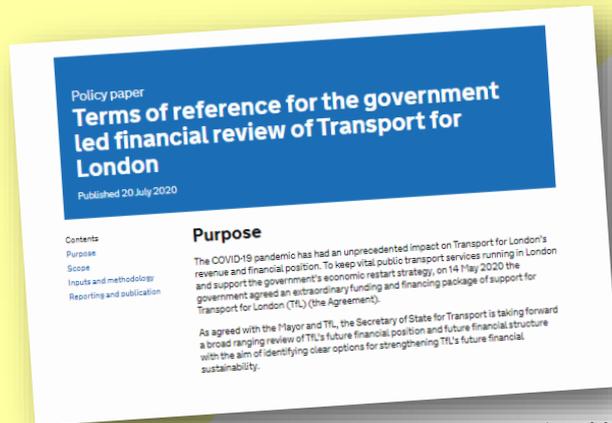




Tube review threat to train operators



The Tory review looking at TfL finances, is taking place right now and could mean a big threat to train operators and all tube workers.

The review's scope is wide, looking at the way that the underground is operated; something which could open the door to Tube privatisation.

Prime minister Boris Johnson, on a recent factory tour where the new Piccadilly Line trains are being built, claimed that he would be pushing for driverless trains, though ironically this came just days after the RMT secured a guarantee that these trains would always have a driver.

It is clear that the Tory intent is to do as much damage to tube workers' jobs, pay and conditions as they can. We are prepared and organised to fight back once the outcome of the review, and any threats to our jobs is known.

On the subject of the financial review, Senior Assistant General Secretary Mick Lynch said:

"As this pandemic has made abundantly clear, privatisation has been a disaster for taxpayers, public and workers alike and we are still living with, and paying for, its consequences.

"You must know that RMT members

will be absolutely united in opposing and fighting any attempted privatisation of the tube.

"Workers on the tube have put their lives on the line day in, day out to keep the Underground running throughout the worst crisis since the Second World War and they are not going to

stand by while your government exploits this crisis in the interests of big business at their expense."

Driverless?

The Tories' terms of reference for the financial review also conjure the spectre of driverless trains, explicitly committing to "exploring the feasibility of extending driverless operation."

This is far easier said than done; implementing driverless trains would involve a massive financial outlay to upgrade stock and signalling systems.

The real reason the Tories raise it isn't because they think it's technologically feasible on any immediate timescale, but to signal their willingness to take on our unions.

Boris Johnson recently said driverless trains were necessary to liberate London from being a "prisoner of the unions." This is the kind of government we were dealing with: determinedly hostile to organised labour. We must be equally determined to resist them.

The review is being discussed at RMT branch meetings and reps and activists are organising our response as necessary. Please come along to your branch meeting and talk to your rep to have your say.

KPMG report concluded

The Government requested a report from KPMG on the finances of LUL. KPMG is a multi-national accountancy company, one of the "Big 4" specialising in down-sizing and asset-stripping, their remit was to analyse working practices at LUL and identify cost cutting measures. This can only be bad news for Underground workers and passengers alike.

KPMG submitted their report last Friday (Sept 11th) to the Government which then allowed senior LUL managers sight of the document.

FOI request

The RMT has submitted a Freedom of Information request to gain access to the document. Unfortunately the document was so heavily redacted there were more black lines than there was information.

"RMT members will be absolutely united in opposing and fighting any attempted privatisation of the tube."

The Government gave LUL 48 hours to respond to this useless document, with an instruction that they were to "fact-check" only. The Government and LUL are now engaged in intensive talks, 3 times a week until the end of the month.

In October the money in LUL's coffers runs out, so a deal has to be done to secure funding - £4 billion is required to keep us going for 18 months. It is only when those talks conclude that LUL will enter into talks with the RMT to discuss future plans.

JUBILEE LINE NEWS



Night Tube Update

JOB SECURITY

We have a written assurance from LUL that NT will resume in April, and we have asked that they write to each individual NT driver to reassure you that this is still the plan.

We are still waiting for them to confirm that they will do that. What we have at the moment is the Main Agreement between the RMT and LUL which guarantees jobs for all workers who are displaced through reorganisation.

This agreement applies to all train drivers, full time and part time.

TRAINING

The 2 in a Cab training pilot has been running for 3 weeks; despite a slow

uptake the number of people completing their training is increasing. The pilot is due to finish in 3 weeks and we will then have a clearer understanding of when proper training will recommence.

MOVEMENTS

It is recognised by both management and the RMT that the processes used to move T/Ops during Covid have been unsatisfactory, but

also the least-worst option. The decision on how to select the TO21s to become TO23s was taken by both unions and management in good faith. Any option would have produced winners and losers.

In fact, the Chair of Council described



Always take a rep

If you are invited to a meeting with management, be clear what it is before it starts and enquire with your rep whether you have the right to be represented at that meeting.

The sooner you make your rep aware of a situation, the more input they can have to ensure a satisfactory outcome to the process.

RMT advise that anybody called into a meeting due to sickness absence take a rep with them.

You can contact your RMT industrial reps by the following methods:

Stratford: Peter North,
07984090860.

North Greenwich: Mick McDonnell,
07837388648.

Wembley Park: Fabien Madden,
07713530031

the system of 'secondments' as a "badly shaped, incorrectly-sized sticking plaster on a wound". As in so many areas of our lives, during Covid we are making compromises and introducing practices to cause as little harm as possible.

Once training restarts we will be working to ensure that all NT T/Ops who may have suffered a delay in promotion or who have been held back as a result of the lack of training will be prioritised.

ZOOM MEETING

This Sunday (13th) at 15.00 please come along for a Q&A session. Log in details available from your local reps and on RMT WhatsApp pages.

WHATSAPP INFO GROUP: Your reps regularly post info to our line WhatsApp group, We have set it up just for reps to post updates so there aren't lots of notifications all day long! If you aren't on this group please ask your rep to add you so we can keep you informed. As always, come along to branch to debate and shape union policy.