



London Calling

News and views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

25 November 2009

For Better Pay, Vote YES / YES

RMT will soon be sending members on London Underground (including Metronet) a ballot paper for industrial action to achieve a better pay deal. Your union urges you to vote YES to strikes and YES to action short of strikes. This will enable the union to use a variety of tactics - such as overtime bans or work-to-rule as well as strikes - to win a better deal than the pay-cutting 'offer' from management.



Senior TfL bosses have given themselves a 50% increase in bonus payments over the past two years from £3.6 million in 2007 to £5.3 million this year. And yet London Underground pretends that it can not afford to reward you for your hard work and increased productivity with a decent pay rise.

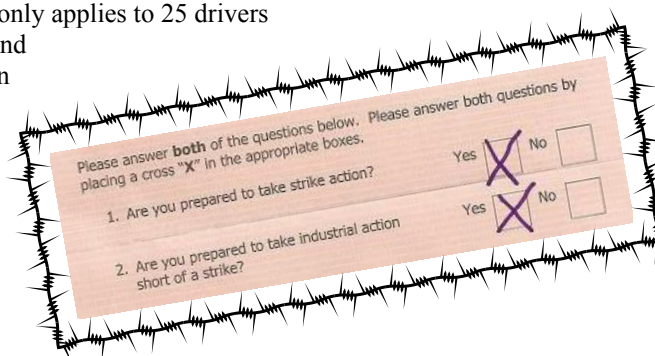
Inflation is rising again, and the latest figures show:

- an all-time record rise in the price of second-hand cars (annual rate of increase 13.2%)
- furniture and household goods up 3.3%
- communication up 2.6%, mainly due to landline phone bills increasing
- food and non-alcoholic drink up 2.2%, with significant increases in the prices of meat, bread, cereals and vegetables.

So how far is 1.5% this year and 0.5% next year going to get you?! Your pay "rise" will not even keep up with your rising bills, so is not a pay rise at all, but a pay cut!

London Underground is also making an "offer" on medical redeployment that only applies to 25 drivers and 25 from other grades, and does not even guarantee an alternative job to those who become unfit to do their current one!

**Vote YES
and
YES!**



Pensions: RMT candidates elected

London Transport staff have elected RMT candidates to speak for them on the Pensions Consultative Committee (PCC).

In the LUL/Metronet/TubeLines section, Mark Harding and Linda Martin achieved a comfortable victory over their rival candidates.

Chris Carroll was elected unopposed to represent retired and deferred members.

In the TfL employees' section, Duncan Delvin missed out by just 5 votes, but following his strong showing in the election, was asked to fill a casual vacancy for the next two years.

The PCC scrutinises the Pension Fund's trustees and office, to ensure that they apply the rules, and discusses any policy changes. It has no formal power, but is the forum in which your representatives can raise your issues.

Your reps will be fighting:

- for periods of missing service to be restored to members
- for improved benefits
- to defend the final salary pension scheme
- against any attempts to reduce your benefits or increase your contributions
- to preserve ill-health pensions.

Mark Harding said: "Thank you very much for the support of all who voted for us. We will continue to defend your pension. Any problems? Get in touch."

You can email Mark at mark.harding@tube.tfl.gov.uk

While representatives can not raise individual cases on the PCC, they are happy to advise individual members.

TubeLines Cuts Inspections

RMT has condemned TubeLines' plan to cut track safety patrols on the Jubilee Line Extension from twice weekly to just weekly in a move which may be extended across the Piccadilly, Northern and Jubilee Lines.

The halving of the frequency of safety inspections on the line is in contravention of current safety standards laid out for the whole of London Underground and as a result TubeLines, which is responsible for the section of track, has applied for a formal concession to release them from current agreed safety procedures.

RMT sees this as clear evidence that claims by Mayor Boris Johnson that the £5 billion black hole facing TfL will not result in front line cuts are nonsense.

Bob Crow, RMT General Secretary, said:

“We have warned all along that the multi-billion pound black hole facing TfL, and the financial chaos at TubeLines, would result in real service cuts and impact on safety and reliability. We now have concrete evidence that our fears were well founded.

“There is a very real danger that if TubeLines are able to rip up existing safety agreements and standards on the Jubilee Line that the rest of their tracks will follow with dire consequences for jobs and passenger safety.”

DISPUTES IN BRIEF ...

EDF Energy Powerlink - RMT is re-balloting members in support of this year's pay claim following the employer's use of the anti-trade union laws to overturn a previous 5:1 vote for action on a turnout of 80%+.

London Underground Hammersmith Depot Drivers - RMT is fighting proposed new anti-social rosters and duty schedules.

Alstom Metro Trains, Stratford Market Depot - RMT is demanding that staff have their pay increased to match that of other workers doing the same job elsewhere.

LUL Willesden Green Group Station Staff - Your union is demanding the reinstatement Station Supervisor Colleen Johnston, after London Underground sacked her for leaving work when her child had a head injury.

Cleaners Protest!

RMT members and supporters recently protested at the offices of LU Metronet to demand a better deal for Tube cleaners.

With GBM's contract being transferred to Initial, who are to further sub-contract it to ICS, Tube cleaners are angry that they are being treated like parcels to be passed around. The only solution is to kick out the contractors and bring Tube cleaning back into an integrated, publicly-owned London Underground.

Cleaners are also demanding the 'London Living Wage', promised by Boris Johnson but not delivered.

Bob Crow, RMT General Secretary said:

“Londoners should not tolerate a situation where TfL bosses get a 50% increase in bonuses over the past two years while some of their own cleaners on the tube are denied the Mayor's London Living Wage and are forced to endure the uncertainty of repeated privatisation.”

RMT service control reps are condemning the “callous attitude” of London Underground management towards apprentices and ex-apprentices. Management promised them jobs in service control but now plan to redeploy them elsewhere.

London Underground has even removed them from the service control function for the purposes of union representation and negotiation!

RMT's service control representatives are determined to be allow to speak for our members in this area and to demand that they are treated fairly.

Saturday 5 December
Demonstration against Climate Change
'Fight for 1 million Green Jobs'
Assemble at 12pm in Hyde Park

London Overground workers organise with London Transport workmates

RMT members on London Overground have become part of the union's London Transport region, enabling workers across Transport for London's various companies to unite to improve our working lives.

RMT representatives planning activities including a newsletter, webpage and recruitment day. London Overground workers are concerned about many issues, including pensions, pay and facilities at stations.



RMT Changes AGM Delegate Rule

Following a lively debate at its recent Special General Meeting, RMT has changed its rules to reduce from five years to three the length of time you must have been an RMT member in order to stand to be a delegate to the union's Annual General Meeting.

Proposing the successful rule change, London Transport region delegate Janine Booth said, “We need both experience and new ideas at our AGM. Our union's AGM should be made up of the best delegates, elected on merit without being barred by an excessive qualifying period.”

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■ Join online: www.rmt.org.uk/join