



London Calling

News and views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

16 September 2009

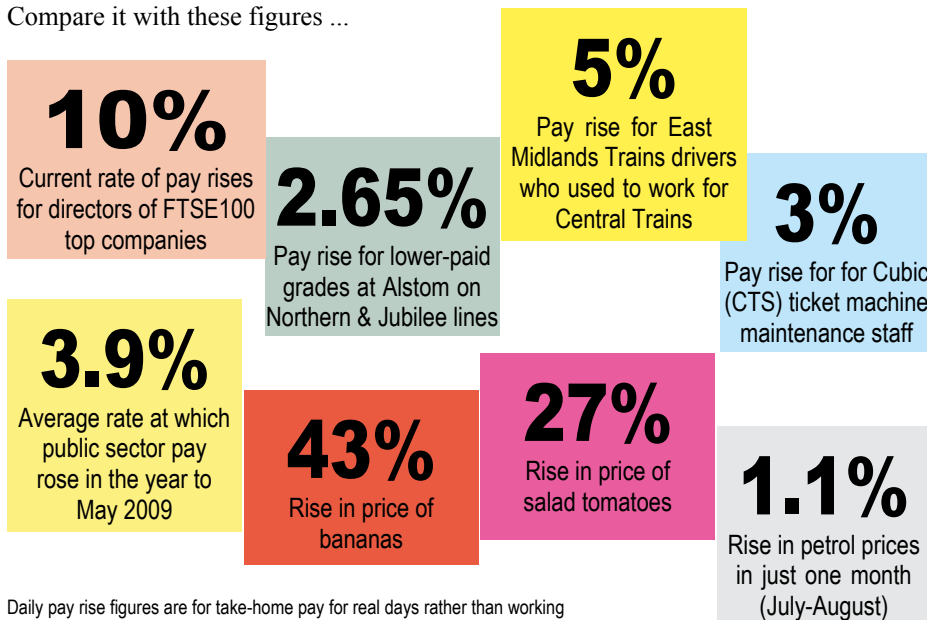
Is This All You Are Worth?!



London Underground's miserly pay offer is worth just 22p per day in Year 2 for a Customer Services Assistant. In year 1, a CSA would get just 68p more per day. For other grades, it is worth little more.

RMT believes that London Underground's pay offer of 1.5% in year 1 and RPI+0.5% in year 2 (almost certainly 0.5% as RPI remains zero or negative) is not good enough. TfL's offer is even worse: the same for the first two years, plus another year at 0.5%.

Compare it with these figures ...



Daily pay rise figures are for take-home pay for real days rather than working days only, calculated using the Prudential's online tax calculator; sources for percentage figures: Office of National Statistics; Guardian; RMT

Dispute Update

- RMT is calling no more strikes for now.
- Our disputes with LUL and TfL are still 'live' ie. not resolved.
- Our strike committee continues to meet and organise.
- No RMT member will be made compulsorily redundant in the current LUL job-cut process.
- LUL accepts that it has a 'no compulsory redundancy' agreement, but insists that this only applies to operational staff even though it states that it applies to 'all employees'.
- LUL's pay offer has improved from a 5-year offer before our June strike to 2 years now, but the money on offer (1.5% this year, RPI+0.5% (minimum 0.5%) next year) is not good enough.
- LUL has agreed to discuss our claim that anyone who becomes medically unfit to do their current job should be guaranteed an alternative job - but refuses to discuss our other claims for better conditions.
- LUL has refused to further improve its pay offer.
- All unions will now hold reps' meetings to discuss the offer. RMT would like the other unions to join us in a united campaign for a better deal.
- LUL has agreed to stick to the maximum 26-week warning for a first breach of the attendance policy.
- Other discipline and attendance issues will be discussed at the Attendance Performance & Conduct working party.
- There are outstanding cases of injustices against staff.
- On TfL, there will be further pay talks later this month.

Everyone who supported our strike helped us win what we have won so far. Everyone who refused to support it has helped prevent us winning more.



Tube staff and cleaners want 'chicken feed' for pay!

Boris Johnson notoriously believes that the £250,000 he is paid for a second job writing a newspaper column is 'chicken feed'. Well, if that is chicken feed, then we'll have some please! RMT will be demonstrating at City Hall on Tuesday 29 September at 5pm. Join us!

RMT's DLR branch secretary Kim Axford writes: "Members in the control room have voted 14-4 for strikes, 15-3 for action short of strikes to oppose DLR's attempt to impose an unacceptable new roster. There was no movement from company at the last meeting at ACAS.

"Pay talks start soon, with the knowledge that Serco has just published a 33% rise in profit before tax amounting to around £83 million.

"There is also unrest within the PSA grade about rosters and the stalling tactic of the company, who will not make radical changes to the antiquated parameters that they base all new schedules on. For five months now, all rosters have been worked under duress."

Urgent update: Docklands Light Railway has sacked a member of staff for having had swine flu and an accident at work! Unlike other companies (even London Underground!), DLR management has refused to discount swine flu absences from its sickness attendance policy. RMT's DLR branch is planning to hold an emergency meeting to launch a campaign to reverse this outrageous sacking.

Boris Breaks Promise on Snow Day Pay

It's confirmed: Boris Johnson has broken his promise that no London Underground staff would be penalised for being unable to get to work because of the heavy snowfall on 2 February. In answers to questions put to him by Green Party Assembly Member Darren Johnson, the Mayor backs up the unfair actions of London Underground management in every single respect.

Now we know how much a promise from our Tory Mayor is really worth!

You can read Darren's questions and Boris' answers here: www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/snowquestions



Paul Rutland Chair TfL No.1 Branch, writes ...

Although it is great to see some progress made on LUL, unfortunately this cannot be said for the TfL side of the dispute. At the last talks management reduced the offer to 3 years, but this is still disgraceful. On the job loss front, we are still mostly in the dark.

This is of no fault of the RMT negotiators. Blame rests with the leaders of the other unions in TfL who are unwilling to put up a fight and are happy to see RMT members fighting battles we should be united in.

On LUL, RMT is the majority union, so progress is made as there is a will to fight for terms and conditions. This is what members pay their subs for – not lip service and big adverts saying how fantastic it is to have millions of members. If you are not willing to fight, numbers count for nothing.

Although unrecognised in a lot of areas of TfL, RMT will continue to fight, and thanks members who supported the industrial action. Whatever grade or workplace, if staff in TfL wish to see their terms and conditions upheld or improvements fought for, the RMT is the Trade Union for all.

Next month, members of the TfL Pension Fund will vote for their representatives on the Pensions Consultative Committee. RMT's candidates are:

- Section 1 (retired and deferred members): **Chris Carroll**
- Section 2 (TfL employees): **Duncan Delvin**
- Section 3 (LUL, Metronet & TubeLines employees): **Mark Harding, Linda Martin**

Victoria Line drivers have voted to take industrial action against management's attempt to impose 'five-rounders' (ie. five full journeys up and down the line in one shift).

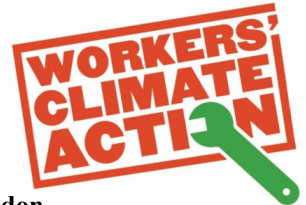
The line is entirely underground and cab air conditioning is inadequate.

Climate Is A Class Issue

A conference for trade unionists and activists defending the environment

Saturday 10 October, 12-6pm, University College London

More details from our Young Members' Officer, Becky Crocker, 07734-364302 youngmembers@rmtlondoncalling.org.uk



Join fellow RMT members and other trade unionists in a protest against job losses, on Sunday 27 September outside Labour Party conference in Brighton: Contact your RMT rep or branch for details.

Fighting Job Cuts on Woolwich Ferries

RMT is balloting our members on the Woolwich Ferry for action short of strikes in a dispute about redundancies and attacks on terms and conditions.

Ferry operator SERCO wants to get rid of 31 jobs out of 120 who work on board the ferries. RMT fears that shoreside workers will face redundancies when the company have dealt with the onboard staff.

RMT members are determined to defend their jobs and conditions.

