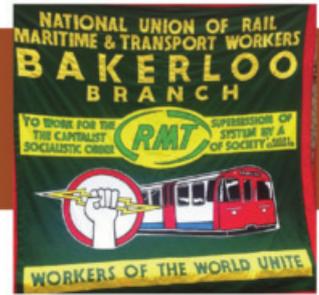




# Bakerloo news



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April 2020

## Coronavirus pandemic: Fight for safer workplaces



**RMT reps across London Underground have been fighting hard to ensure**

**workers' rights are defended throughout the pandemic, and for safer workplaces to minimise risk.**

We have a vital role to play in the collective social effort to confront the pandemic, by helping other essential workers, including health workers, get to and from work. That is our essential role now: not any corporate notion of retail-style "customer service", and not the generation of revenue and profit for our bosses.

To do that safely, we need workers' control of staff deployment and operations. Power should not rest with senior managers, figuratively and literally distant from the workplace, but with frontline workers themselves.

RMT pressure has so far secured agreements on:

- Voluntary process for off-group working on stations
- Free parking at station NCPs
- No Covid-related absence to

be counted for disciplinary action

- Full pay for any ABM cleaning staff who have to self-isolate
- Any additional travelling time incurred via off-group working to be included in shift or paid as OT

Where local managers are pressuring members, the local rep should immediately challenge this directly with the senior manager, as well as reporting any individual cases to Level Two reps. We are continuing to press for an extension to the five-day leave entitlement for those living with someone in a vulnerable group.

We also demanding additional measures to minimise risk at a "shop floor" level. These demands include:

- Powering down POMs
- Opening WAGs
- Ensure safe distancing on stations by rotating staff

We are demanding that LU issue directives to all local managers to ensure that these measures are implemented. We will support any group of members who takes the decision to implement them locally. Remember that Section 44 of the 1996 Employment

Rights Act gives all workers the right to refuse to work, and withdraw to a place of safety, if we believe we or others are being placed in "serious and imminent danger".

**We are also demanding local control over rostering and shift allocation, to minimise the number of staff in work at any given time.**

## 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

**The RMT Health and Safety rep for the SRT helped implement safe distancing measures at Euston and North Greenwich, using hazard tape and tensa barriers to designate zones.**

Prior the intervention of the rep, Euston had no such measures in place. We strongly advise members in other stations to implement similar measures.

RMT on SRT has also requested that management accept any lateness caused by staff not being able to safely distance on overcrowded trains.

Your safety rep has also requested that SRT management accept that staff can remain in a safe location (either at home, or away from everyone if in a station) and not be required to work if a query regarding their vulnerability status and Covid-19 cannot be immediately concluded as safe.

**This means SRT are initially safe while waiting for the answer, rather than working and potentially being in danger during that time.**

## News round-up

### Bakerloo Trains

**Everyone knows that the Tube will be a breeding ground for the virus, and that regular and effective cleaning is essential.**

One positive to emerge in recent days has been LU's procurement of the wonder disinfectant, Zoono. When applied this agent supposedly stops contamination for up to 30 days. The Bakerloo train fleet has now been treated, and a programme put in place to reapply it every 21 days. Questions remain regarding the agents durability over time but initial studies are encouraging. RMT safety reps are pressing for this agent to be applied everywhere, including stations, mess rooms, and all booking on points.

**LU will look to put a plan in place once the size and scope of the task has been established.**

### Centre Group Stations

**Pressure from union reps succeeded in stopping a management attempt to use CSAs to babysit closed Section 12 stations.**

Reps and activists in the workplace are monitoring staffing levels to ensure safe distancing remains possible.

### Cleaners

**Due to RMT pressure, TfL and ABM agreed that any cleaner who self-isolates or goes off sick will be paid in full.**

This is a significant concession, as cleaners were previously only entitled to Statutory Sick Pay of £94.25 per week, clearly not enough to live on.

RMT has also pushed for all cleaners to be issued with adequate PPE, including masks. Bakerloo News recommends that all cleaners wear masks, not just to perform certain tasks, but through the shift.

**If you have not been issued with adequate PPE, speak to an RMT rep. Mo Said, chair of the RMT London Transport Cleaning Grades Committee, can be contacted on 07856 697021.**

### REINSTATE RACQUEL DWYER

Racquel Dwyer, ABM cleaner and RMT safety rep, has been dismissed by ABM following an unnecessary "restructure" that targeted her job.

Read more about the campaign to defend Racquel at:

[bit.ly/racquel-d](https://bit.ly/racquel-d)

## ONLINE RESOURCES

For resources including...

- Latest management guidance on Covid-19
- Coronavirus FAQs, from RMT Level Two reps
- NEC member and Regional Organiser reports from London Underground Company Council
- Level Two reps' "live bulletin" of demands

...visit [rmtlondoncalling.org.uk](https://rmtlondoncalling.org.uk)

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