



# Bakerloo news



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May 2023

# Vote yes for action

RMT is currently balloting all members employed by London Underground Ltd. in order to renew the mandate for industrial action in our dispute over jobs, pensions, and conditions. Ballot papers have been posted to your home address; all members are encouraged to vote yes for continued action. **You must return your ballot by 20 May.**



Ballot papers were sent in green envelopes with the union logo in the bottom left corner.

### Why are we re-balloting?

It's a requirement of the Tories' restrictive anti-union laws that unions must re-ballot every six months to keep their industrial action mandate live.

### Have we made progress in the dispute?

The action we've taken so far has slowed LUL down. If we hadn't gone on strike, the process of pension reform would likely have been completed by now. But we are facing an employer which is determined to make cuts to satisfy the terms of an agreement it made with the Tory government. We need to renew the mandate because we haven't won our dispute; LUL is still cutting jobs, attacking agreements, and planning to reform our pension. If we fail to renew the mandate we will have surrendered our most effective means of fighting the employer: taking industrial action.

### What's the latest news on pensions?

LUL has announced that the only option for reform that satisfies the terms of the funding settlement it reached with the Tories is to transfer our pensions into the existing Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). LGPS has much worse terms than the TfL scheme. The retirement age is pegged to the state retirement age, meaning we won't be able to retire until 67 or 68 (or later, if the state retirement age is increased). Employee contributions are higher, meaning we'd be paying more out of our pay packets each month. And the

eventual payouts are much lower on average. In short, we are all at risks of losing literally thousands of pounds in retirement, unless we're able to force TfL to abandon its plan via the pressure of industrial action.

### When will we strike again if we renew the mandate?

That's up to us. Discussions at RMT branches and reps' meetings will provide the basis for the decisions about our next steps. RMT Bakerloo's position, agreed following debates and votes in branch meetings, is that we need to significantly escalate our action in order to win: striking sporadically, for 24 hours every few months, is not a sufficient level of pressure to force meaningful concessions from the employer.

### What if I haven't received my ballot paper?

Speak to your rep immediately, or email [info@rmt.org.uk](mailto:info@rmt.org.uk) to request a replacement.

*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

# Stations job cuts are not a done deal



**RMT Bakerloo members at Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus, and Charing Cross are dealing with the consequences of major cuts to staffing levels.**

North Group stations are also due for review, with LUL targeting detrainment duties. LUL wants us to accept the reduced staffing level as irreversible. But we know from our experience with Fit for the Future - where industrial action after implementation of the cuts

succeeded in winning back almost 50% of the jobs - that sustained pressure can force u-turns from the company.

Already, spreading station closures have forced senior management to reopen discussion of the reductions at Functional Council level ("Level Two" of the collective bargaining structure). Continued action as part of our main dispute, supplemented by local action such as overtime bans where necessary, will keep the pressure on the company and could force them to reinstate some of the jobs they've cut.

It's vital we renew our industrial action mandate so we can continue fighting against LUL's reckless cuts, and seek to win back jobs.

## For a democratic republic

**Tube workers kept London moving through the coronation weekend; we've also been discussing the wider issues the coronation presents in our union branches.**

At our May meeting, RMT Bakerloo voted for a resolution supporting the abolition of the monarchy and the creation of a democratic republic. Any system of unelected, hereditary power is necessarily undemocratic. We also believe the monarchy is inextricably tied to Britain's historic involvement in colonialism and enslavement.

It was worrying to see the arrests of republican campaigners, another example of how democratic rights, including the right to free speech, are curtailed.

Our branch adopting this position does not mean members who disagree are not welcome in the union. RMT aims to organise all workers to fight for greater collective rights and power, whether or not they agree with union positions on political issues.

But we have horizons beyond the workplace too. Trade unions are about fighting for a greater say for workers at work - i.e., greater economic democracy. We see it as a natural extension of that perspective to advocate for the maximum possible expansion of democracy throughout society as a whole.

**To us, this necessarily means opposing an unelected head of state and a system of hereditary power.**

## Equality is a union issue

**RMT Bakerloo elects equalities officers to support members who face oppression and discrimination on the basis of gender, sexuality, race, and/or disability.**

Their role is to ensure the union is campaigning actively on issues that affect these members in the workplace and wider society, in pursuit of equality. Incumbent equalities officers and their contact details are listed below. Please reach out to them with any questions or proposals for campaigning activity.



**Women Members Officer**  
Sarah Russell  
(T/Op, Elephant and Castle)  
sarahrussell\_101@hotmail.co.uk



**Black Members Officer**  
Elijah Poole  
(CSA, South Group)  
elijahpoole@tfl.gov.uk

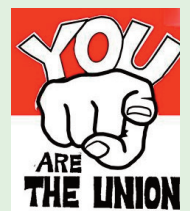


**LGBT+ Members Officer**  
Georgie Duane  
(T/Op, Queen's Park)  
georgieduane@gmail.com



**Disabled Members Officer**  
Ketan Jagada  
(CSS, North Group)  
ketanjagada@gmail.com

**RMT Bakerloo meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month, 16:00, at The Cock Tavern, Phoenix Road, NW1 1HB (near Euston).**



**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME**