


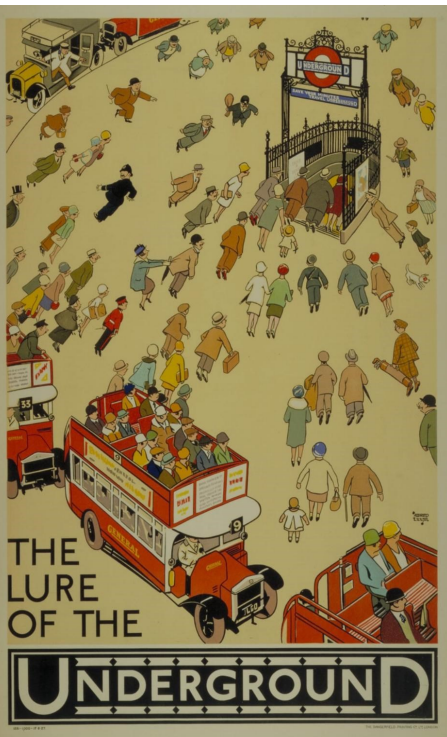
Bakerloo Branch

unity is strength 

Branch 0079 - Branch Secretary Jim McDaid - bakerlooline@rmt.org.uk

By Bakerloo Drivers for Bakerloo Drivers December 2020

Passengers numbers on the rise as lockdown 2 ends and Christmas approaches



So Lockdown 2 has now ended and we are in the run up to Christmas. As predicted, passengers numbers are back on the rise.

The prospect of 10 pints, a scotch egg and wander down a dangerously busy Oxford Street for the Christmas shopping is obviously irresistible, for some.

This presents safety problems for our drivers!

Firstly, we are still in the grip of a killer pandemic with no vaccines just yet. It will be harder for our members to maintain social distancing the busier the

trains and platforms become. Since the beginning of the pandemic RMT reps have pushing hard to ensure the safety of our members. One problem that LU have to yet to come up with an answer to is *'how are we meant to socially distance when we need to go back into the saloon car to fix defects.'* LU, back then, hid behind the line that passenger numbers were low so we should be able to do this while maintaining social distancing. That is certainly not the case now and it is going to get worse the closer we get the Christmas.

Bakerloo reps have asked the Train's safety Council to re-raise this issue with LU. They cannot claim to be providing a Covid secure workplace and then expect drivers to work in packed saloon cars. This will be raised at an ad-hoc meeting this week.

In the meantime, drivers are covered under the refusal to work on the grounds of safety procedure. If its not safe, don't do it. The union will support anyone who refuses to work on the grounds of health and safety.

Please inform your union reps as soon as a situation like this arises. The more information we have the stronger the argument we can make to LU.

Beware at the PTI; be mindful of SPAD risks

Before Covid, the greatest risk of an incident on the trains was at the PTI. As passenger numbers rise again we are receiving reports from drivers of very busy platforms and people getting stuck or holding the doors open. This will only increase in the run to the festive season.

Passengers numbers have been low for a while so this is definitely an area where drivers should exercise greater caution.

If you cannot see the whole of the platform or train doors, do not move the train. Ask for assisted dispatch if necessary.

Longer dwell time at platforms are also causing blocking back at some locations; this in turn is causing SPAD traps for our drivers. Please be extra careful at these times.

Contacting your union rep

Mel Mullings—Elephant and Castle Industrial Relations
07718 645817

Jay Patel—Queen's Park Industrial Relations
07834158677

Micky Hyde—Elephant and Castle Health and Safety
07400 622592

Jim McDaid—Queen's Park Health and Safety
07917 131692