



RMT rejects proposed sheets at all three depots



Update: 29th of April
Train drivers' union RMT at Wembley Park, North Greenwich and Stratford have rejected the proposed 'Covid-19' schedules for a second time.

This rejection has been repeated at depots across London Underground, where RMT represents over 1700 drivers.

Your RMT reps had been tasked to look at the proposed 'Covid-19' schedules to try find ways to make them compliant with social distancing needs. However, management have refused to formally rewrite the schedules based on our suggestions, or to make any alterations to the timetable at all, making this an impossible task.

The RMT will, along with our sister trade union, be meeting with management at ACAS tomorrow. We will be pushing them to change their behaviour and to start working with us to make acceptable duty schedules. However, they may try to impose the schedules on us, in which case as a union we will have to respond..

Background

Tube bosses have announced plans to impose a 4 minute timetable on the Jubilee Line in a matter of days. At a time when we are risking our lives and that of our families to come to work; it is both unnecessary and an insult to us to expect us to operate such a high level of service throughout the day when trains are frequent-

ly empty.

The RMT has reiterated that as drivers we will willingly play our part to get essential workers such as doctors, nurses, cleaners and supermarket employees to where they need to be. But this doesn't mean that we agree to come into work to operate an unnecessary service at the risk of our own health.

On the 1st of April a line meeting took place and RMT reps from all three depots flatly rejected the proposed 'Covid-19' schedules and were told this would be referred to Trains Functional Council. We are therefore amazed that management have now announced their intention to implement the schedules again with no changes made at all.

We have now written to our line head and the TFC chair, to reiterate our rejection of the sheets. The next steps will be to take the matter to our branches to debate and decide on what further action our branches plan to take.

Please ensure you continue to attend your next branch meeting and feed back to your local reps so everybody's thoughts on management's action can be discussed.

Are you social distancing at home?

LUL believes that the social distancing measures now in place have mitigated the risk to such a level that it is safe for drivers in the "increased risk" category to return to work. They want drivers to have a telephone interview with LUOH to confirm whether or not this is the case.

The RMT position is that the role of the medical professionals at LUOH is simply to confirm that a driver has an underlying condition; not attempting to persuade a driver that they are not at risk of contracting Covid-19 due to

mitigations put in place by LUL. The Government advice hasn't changed: people in the "increased risk" category should work from home where possible.

When that is not possible, they should socially distance at home on full pay. In the meantime, drivers should keep in contact with their TM and expect to be asked for evidence of the underlying condition at the RTWI, and where possible produce that evidence sooner.

If it isn't safe, don't do it

The RMT has written to driver members about the proposed Covid 19 timetables and the legal right not to be placed in serious or imminent danger.

General Secretary Mick Cash wrote to members on the 23rd of April:

"Your union believes that that the imposed rosters will compromise social distancing by:

- *Requiring more staff to be in depots than is necessary*
- *Requiring train operators to travel back to their depots 'on the cushions'*
- *Requiring train operators to take meal-reliefs in depots.*
- *Increasing the number of unscheduled detrainments which will put train operators under pressure to move through trains or along platforms where maintaining social distancing will be impossible.*

Members should exercise their legal rights not to place themselves in serious or imminent danger if their social distancing cannot be guaranteed. I can assure you that your union will do everything possible to support any member exercising their legal rights not to be put in danger."

Read the circular at bit.ly/2KMq3J0.

