

NEC POLICY STATEMENT

COVID – 19: RMT STRATEGY STATEMENT

DEFENDING JOBS, PAY & CONDITIONS AND SERVICES

Britain is suffering the deepest recession in Europe at this time, in no small part due to the government's botched response to Covid.

RMT rejects any attempt to impose the economic costs of the Covid pandemic onto working people.

It is also clear that years of Tory austerity and neo-liberal economic policy over decades has undermined the UK's industrial capacity and rendered the UK economy particularly vulnerable to lockdowns and restraints on the service sector.

It is obvious that the out-sourced, casual and gig-economy model is busted. The economy and the workers need secure, well paid employment with good terms & conditions

This economic crisis is in no way the responsibility of workers, many of whom have continued to work through the crisis. We will resist all redundancies, pay cuts or any other attacks on working conditions made under cover of the pandemic.

Mass redundancies will destroy working class communities, not help to rebuild the UK economy.

Where they are threatened, companies should be nationalised under democratic control to ensure the productive capacity of the workers involved is not lost and to protect the living standards of those workers, their families and their communities.

RMT has an established policy to resist compulsory redundancies. We will fight redundancies and pay cuts using all political and industrial actions at our disposal. We will do all we can to mobilise effective industrial action in defence of jobs and services wherever members wish to do so. RMT will consider all options including, but not limited to, local, sectoral and national strikes, action short of strikes and occupations.

RMT will campaign on the following demands:

1. Workers must not pay the economic crisis. We say no to redundancies, pay cuts and attacks on conditions and agreements.
2. Job Security Agreements in companies across our sectors that defend all jobs and maintain our pay, conditions and agreements.
3. Commitments to no redundancies and no pay cuts must be a condition placed upon any company receiving any public subsidy or financial support. The government should act immediately to impose this condition.
4. Any company providing rail, bus, maritime or other public transport services that claims to be unable to maintain jobs and pay rates should be immediately nationalised.
5. Bring all public transport services into a new public transport authority under public ownership with democratic control. Develop a national integrated plan for public transport that guarantees jobs and conditions, service levels and reduces fares to passengers.
6. A commitment from government and employers to retain and train UK ratings in the maritime sector.

7. Development and enhancement of our member's skills to enable the "just transition" of the offshore energy industry.
8. End to out-sourcing and casualisation of jobs & services in the transport sector with all transport jobs brought in-house.

We will promote this policy throughout our union so that every member is aware of it. RMT will not allow employers to set the agenda on these matters.

We will seek to work with other unions.

We recognise that demands for action at a government level and a political campaign will be an essential element of resisting redundancies and pay cuts at this time. Even in situations where immediate industrial action is not appropriate, we will meet every attack from the bosses with a campaign of resistance.

RMT calls on the TUC to demand of the government any public funding across the UK economy is dependent on a guarantee of No redundancies and No pay cuts.

Where firms claim to be unable to maintain jobs and pay rates then the company books must be opened for workers and TU scrutiny.

Where a company is unable to maintain jobs then it should be nationalised under democratic control.

We call on the TUC to organise a series of regional days of action to support these demands including socially distanced demos and rallies. These events should be coordinated with any strike action that is taking place against job cuts and attacks on conditions.