



LOCKDOWN 2.0: RMT DEMANDS IMPROVED WORKPLACE SAFETY, JOB SECURITY AND PROTECTED PENSION ARRANGEMENTS.

If you have been advised by a medical professional – either the NHS centrally, or your own GP/clinician – to shield at home during the new lockdown, you must follow this advice and resist any and all attempts by reckless AM's who seem to find amusement in gambling with peoples lives.

If your manager is refusing to acknowledge medical documentation showing you are in the "Clinically Extremely Vulnerable", you must still following medical guidance not to attend work. Speak to your local rep about your case and if the AM still fuffs about, your rep (assisted by SFC) will escalate to director level if necessary.

Any Covid-related absence, whether for self-isolation or because of shielding, must not be counted as an item of non-attendance for the purposes of the Attendance At Work policy. If you are returning from a period of self-isolation, clarify this with your manager during your Return To Work Interview and ensure the absence has been entered on SAP as "Accepted".

We also remind all members that existing agreements, such as the requirement for all local areas to implement revised rosters to maximise distancing in the workplace, remain in place. We are pressing management to ensure those agreements are strengthened, but in the meantime there is no suggestion of a return to normal working. Any AM insisting otherwise is either playing games at the risk to your health or doesn't bother to read instructions issued to them.

For a regularly-updated "Frequently Asked Questions" document relating to the pandemic and LU policy, visit rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/content/coronavirus-stations-faq

TfL FUNDING: STAY PREPARED

The government has agreed a new funding bailout for TfL, which will fund it until March 2021. The Commissioner Andy Byford has given unions an assurance that there will be no changes to staffing levels or terms and conditions during this period. However, this almost certainly means a very temporary reprieve. We know the Tory appointed auditors 'KPMG' have made recommendations to the government but we strongly suspect that LU has more than a few ideas of its own. The threat of cuts remains very present.

The new bailout deal also involves a commitment from TfL to be entirely self-financing by 2023. With passenger levels highly unlikely to return to the levels necessary to guarantee this any

time soon, this almost certainly means bosses will look for further budget cuts.

TfL has also told unions that they expect the next review of the pension scheme, due in March 2021, to reveal a deficit, which they do not expect to be able to make up. They have not given any concrete indication as to how they would respond to this, but it does mean that attempted cuts to our pension scheme cannot be ruled out.

All of this means we have to bolster our organisation to ensure we are ready to ballot for industrial action as soon as necessary. Speak to any non-members about joining the union, make sure your details are up to date with the union, and ensure union literature is displayed and discussed in the workplace.

RMT's policy is clear: we will oppose any and all cuts. We do not accept the bosses' arguments that economic crisis means cuts are necessary or inevitable. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, the wealth of the richest in our society has continued to increase. Billionaires have seen profits double

and there is no reason why workers should be made to bear the brunt of an economic crisis. Remember that only recently LU staff, our members, were heralded as the vigilant saviours of not only London's economy, but, crucially, the workers who got NHS staff, other key workers and emergency services into the city. London Underground (under orders from the government) have turned us from hero's to zeros in a matter of weeks and now plan to save a few quid by not only attacking our jobs but our hard earned pensions as well.

YOUR union will always defy both LU and the government by mounting a relentless campaign to resist any and all cuts, and fight for political change to ensure services such as transport are publicly funded and democratically controlled.

SRT, REVENUE, AND NIGHT TUBE

Some sections of the stations workforce have been particularly impacted by the pandemic, with their usual work mothballed or unviable due to the current restrictions.

With the events and projects which make up the work of the Special Requirements Team (SRT) on hold, LU has invoked a clause in the SRT Framework which allows SRT staff to cover long-term local absences such as sickness and maternity leave. RMT reps in the SRT successfully secured an agreement which ensures SRT workers' fixed links and rest day patterns will not be disrupted by such deployment. We ask reps and activists on local station groups to monitor any SRT deployment to your area, to ensure it is only for long-term absences, and not to cover vacancies.

Revenue Control Inspectors (RCIs) have now returned to work following furlough, and will be conducting a range of operational tasks, including reminding passengers about the requirement to wear face-coverings whilst travelling. RCIs remain the front line of defence against fare evasion in the tube, any ticketing issues (of which there are vastly more than ever) should be reported only to our own revenue department and not TFL.

Night Tube remains mothballed until March 2021. LU has already guaranteed that Night Tube workers' jobs, terms, and

conditions will be protected. RMT will continue to press management for regular updates and, should plans to resume Night Tube operation in March change, we will inform members straight away.

IT'S YOUR UNION!

Throughout the pandemic, RMT reps at all levels have been working hard to represent our interests to the employer and fight for union demands. But this isn't a matter of "the union" doing things "for" us - the union is a collective, and it's only as strong and effective as we make it.

Unlike an insurance policy, where you purchase a product from an external body, or a legal firm, where you pay someone to provide a service, a trade union is a democratic collective of workers, rooted in the workplace, that belongs to all of us. Union membership isn't a service we're paying for, it's a tool in our hands to make our working lives better.

RMT branches meet at least monthly, via Zoom video-conferencing technology. Get involved in your branch to have your say on what the union should be doing locally, and to directly elect your local reps. If you don't know which branch you're in, or when it meets, speak to your rep for more info.

YOUR LEVEL TWO REPS:

Your first point of contact with the union should always be your local rep. If you don't know who your local rep is, or can't reach them, please contact the Level Two rep responsible for supporting reps in your branch area:

Paul Schindler - Central Line West branch; RCI reps (07730 032665)

Marie Harrington - Piccadilly & District West branch; East Ham branch (07814 740308)

Glen Hart - Jubilee South branch; Central Line East branch (07809 471289)

Mac McKenna - Morden & Oval branch; Camden 3 branch (07801 071363)

Daniel Randall - Bakerloo branch; Neasden branch (07961 040618)

Norman Thomson - Finsbury Park branch; Hammersmith & City branch (07853 288184)