



London Calling

News and views from RMT's London Transport Regional Council

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk

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Cuts Will Hurt Us All

The coalition government's massive spending cuts will hit the vulnerable, undermine vital services and threaten both private and public sector jobs. Every single RMT member and their families will be affected. The cuts will hammer the industries we work in and the services we use.

The Con-Dems have already announced a big hike in VAT; abandonment of school building work, and scrapping of child benefit for people on £44k or more. Reports have revealed plans to make public sector workers pay more towards our pensions and retire later, and to at least double university tuition fees. That is bad enough, but on 20 October, the government will reveal its Comprehensive Spending Review, involving huge further cuts. Most departments' spending will be cut by 25-40% Meanwhile, top bankers are still getting huge bonuses, and fat cats - including our own bosses - are still getting obscene salaries at the public expense.

If you work in transport, use the NHS, may require the fire brigade some day, receive child benefit, want your kids (or yourself) to go to university, or use any public service, then please join the campaign to defend your job and services.

TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER: TUC lobby of Parliament

12:30 to 14.00, Rally: Westminster Central Hall - 14.30: Lobby MPs

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER: RMT and other unions march

With the backing of a growing number of other London trade unions, RMT's London Transport region has called a march from Unity House, 39 Chalton Street to support the South East Anti-Cuts Rally at Congress House, Great Russell Street.

This march, as part of the TUC week of action, gives trade unionists and local communities a chance to take to the streets and show that we are not going to sit back and accept vicious cuts to jobs and services. The march will assemble outside Unity House (nearest tube Euston) at 11am. Speakers will include Bob Crow (RMT) and Matt Wrack (FBU). Please bring your workmates, families and friends.

More information, and publicity materials, from Janine Booth, Regional Council Secretary janine@rmtlondoncalling.org.uk, 07910-202225



RMT lifts and escalator members picket Griffith House on our second day of strike action against London Underground job cuts. The strike, on 3 and 4 October, was even more solid than the first strike in September, with many ASLEF members respecting picket lines and plenty of support from passengers.

RMT is to attend talks at ACAS with LU management to discuss withdrawing their irrational and dangerous cuts.



RMT has slammed as 'savagery' another huge tranche of up to 800 job cuts among 'support staff'. London Underground has revealed that it intends to sack another 400 staff and to leave another 400 vacancies unfilled. This is on top of the 800 station staff already earmarked for the axe.

RMT General Secretary Bob Crow said: 'This announcement underlines the depth of the crisis that the Mayor and LUL have plunged the Tube network into.

'These cuts show that all the warnings we have made over the last year were absolutely right.

'It seems that Mayor Johnson is even intent sacking some of the managers who have helped him to try to break our strikes.

'We now have 1,600 jobs under threat even before the government's spending review, and LUL has made it clear that even more will be in the firing line. RMT and our colleagues in TSSA have been right to fight to save Tube jobs and safety, and we will continue to do so.'

Roy Carey, RMT rep for MATS (managers, admin, technical, support), added: 'We in the RMT believe you should not feel intimidated, or living in fear when coming to work. The fear and threat of losing your job is something none of us need. We will fight every job cut.'



RMT members gathered outside Initial-Rentokil offices to protest against Initial's attacks on their employees and the union. These include bringing cleaners into their offices on the pretence of having a grievance hearing and then calling the police to arrest them.

Steve Hedley, RMT's Regional Organiser, said: "RMT cannot stand idly by and allow this crude intimidation to continue."

Jon Abdullah, an RMT activist who works on LU stations Special Requirements Team, considers some important points about our action to defend jobs ...

1. Abuse of power. As we have a 'jobs for life' agreement, LU can not make us redundant. So how will they cut jobs? By vigorously and unfairly implementing their attendance and disciplinary procedure; bending their own rules; giving the full of warning possible with no discretion.

2. Fewer jobs. If they win this fight, LU will come for more jobs, and the job for remaining staff will be so difficult. Staff needs such as flexible working, hardship moves, transfers, promotion, special leave will be harder to obtain.

3. The future. We all know how difficult it is for the worker to put bread on the table to feed our families. How will the next generation of workers

put bread on their tables? If we fail to secure our jobs and conditions, it is safe to say our future and the future of the next group of workers will be bleak.

4. Bringing down the trade unions. Whatever your political view, you are still a worker and the organisations that protect us are the trade unions.

The government and Tory mayor need to break us. If they achieve this it will not only have a devastating affect on us and on trade unions throughout the country.

5. Unemployment. Remember: fewer jobs means more unemployed workers. More people on the dole, more families on or below the poverty line and more crime. We will all suffer.

DLR

Docklands Light Railway staff are taking a stand against the company's attempt to impose changes.

During our dispute over the introduction of three-carriage running, an agreement was reached at ACAS that the company would enter into consultation over the implementation of revised walking times and spread over times.

But management now believe that this agreement gives them the right to impose these changes without further discussion. So RMT is balloting members for strike action and action short of a strike. Ballot papers go out on Tuesday 12 October with a return date of Monday 25 October. The union urges all members to vote YES for strikes and YES for action short of a strike.

RMT branch secretary Darren Arnold said: 'Members in all grades are getting a say in how we take this issue forward. Please make sure that you vote in this ballot, so that the result represents your views.'



Queen's Park pickets say: stop the job cuts!

ALSTOM

Alstom has tabled the following improved pay offer:

- 2% increase on basic pay.
- Travel assistance will be increased to 100% up to a value of £1300 for two years at which time it will be reviewed in April 2012.
- Low paid workers will receive an increase in their basic salary of £750 for 2010. Low paid is considered to be under £20,000.
- We will commit to productivity talks with the RMT (incorporating own goals) and where by the improvements suggested by the Union Representatives will add towards funding the 100% attendance scheme. The outline of the scheme needs to be agreed and discussed between the RMT and Alstom Mass Transit.
- We will commit to meet to discuss 'Harmonisation' across Metro trains to include the CRT, Stores and Tech grades.

RMT's General Grades Committee decided to suspend industrial action planned in order to carry out a referendum with a recommendation to accept the improved offer. The referendum closes on Wednesday 20 October.