



upfront

www.rmtlondoncalling.org.uk/trains - July 2021

87% VOTE AGAINST PLAN TO SCRAP THE NT GRADE

RMT train operators have voted by almost 90% against the planned increase of weekend and night working due to management's decision to scrap the Night Tube grade.

The vast majority of Tube drivers were both shocked and angered to learn that as we come out of the pandemic we would be confronted with a worsening of work life conditions for full time drivers.

- The loss of a clean salary for Train Operators and the introduction of shift enhancements.
- The negative impact on Train Operator staffing levels from the abolition of TO23.

The RMT's Regional Organiser John Leach has now written to London Underground (below) laying out our demands following the positive industrial action ballot result.

It is the work of RMT activists, attending organising meetings and doing the work in train crew accommodations across London Underground that has resulted in this successful ballot result.

We will now use it to send a clear message to management. If necessary, we will also be able to take industrial action to secure our demands.

RE: Abolishment of NT grade

*To LU Director Nick Dent,
As you know RMT has returned a ballot and secured a mandate on the above. In an effort to resolve the dispute RMT request that you arrange a halt to all Functional and specifically local activity / rostering talks and such matters.*

Additionally we are requesting that you attend ACAS to resolve the dispute.

Please confirm your acceptance to both of the above and we can jointly attempt to resolve the dispute. I have copied in our reps and ACAS for info.

John Leach, Regional Organiser



Night Tube Service

The RMT dispute also covers the following crucial issues:

- The imposition of compulsory night tube duties on all Train Operators.
- The imposition of additional weekend duties for all LUL Train Operators.
- Increased fatigue from the addition of night tube duties on full-time rosters and the likely requirement for work rosters to include nights/non-night shifts/rest days in the same week.

The RMT are prepared to enter into meaningful negotiations with management on these issues, but should they refuse to do so we will take the action necessary, which now includes our mandate for industrial action.

Organising against attacks

The plan to scrap the Night Tube grade was pushed through by senior management breaking a long standing agreement ignoring the position of the RMT.

Our stance is clear: We welcomed LUL making Night Tube drivers who wanted it full time and are not asking for this to be reversed. LUL should repopulate the Night Tube grade and roster the Night Tube work within it rather than imposing it on full time drivers.

RMT is the union for Tube train drivers. We continue to demand the best for all our 1600 train driver members.
- Join RMT today - www.rmt.org.uk/join -

Vaughan Thomas - 07720 297 657
Paul Shannon - 07800 808 297
Dean O'Hanlon - 07956 342235





TRACK NOISE INCREASING



You will recall that a successful RMT ballot and the threat of industrial action forced LU to find an extra £12 million to tackle the track noise problem that they had created.

Regular noise monitoring in conjunction with safety reps, rail grinding, soft pads and a 5-year plan to remove the problematic PV track were all put in place and the problem was slowly being brought under control.

Fast forward two years and the problem is now worse than ever. The RMT raised this issue with Nick Dent, the Director of Train Operations and we made it clear that we wanted this problem dealt with as a priority. Our members on the affected lines had informed us that they were willing, once again, to take industrial action if necessary.

Fortunately, common sense has prevailed, for the time being. LU have conceded that it may now be necessary to deploy TSRs to alleviate the problem at certain locations.

They have also conceded that the noise monitoring, which had

slipped during the worst spells of covid, needed to be re-introduced.

They have also arranged a track noise conference for all of our safety reps on the affected lines to update fully on both short term and long term plans.

Secure Cabs

It is understandable that the secure cabs project is delayed, but RMT continues to push for it to get done.

The 'defective in service instruction' states a train with a broken or missing J door security panel should remain in service. This makes no sense for your safety, so RMT has insisted it be updated to state the train should be withdrawn.

We've now been invited to discuss the rewriting of the DISI and expect LU to correct this anomaly. We also continue to demand the cab security project be complete.

Train Grades Meeting

The next train grades meeting is on 29th July at 1430 on Zoom. We will be discussing the next steps in the Night Tube dispute, as well as all the other current issues we are dealing with. All driver members welcome.

Join train drivers' union RMT today

It is simple to join the RMT:

- = Scan the QR code,
- = Go to www.rmt.org.uk/join,
- = Call 0800 376 3706,
- = Or talk to your local rep.



EVERY VOTE MATTERS

Each and every vote in an RMT ballot is important. Due to Tory anti-union laws, a majority yes result is no longer enough for us to take industrial action, instead we have to meet the thresholds of a 50% turn out and 40% of those eligible to vote voting yes.

The union would like to make voting easier by using electronic methods, but the government will not allow this as they want to make balloting harder for us.

Our 'abolishment of Night Tube' ballot had a clear YES response, but could have fallen short of the Tory thresholds if just a handful of the 800 plus people who voted in the ballot hadn't done so.

Unjustly, the ballot for unfairly sacked rep Gash Carney fell short of the threshold by only a handful of voters, yet there was also a very clear majority of people who voted YES for action.

Members must recognise that not voting has a directly negative impact on how well we can defend you. Previously some individuals may have believed that not voted wasn't important, confident it would be a yes result anyway, but this is no longer the case as we need a big enough turnout that meets the anti-union law thresholds.

RMT continues to campaign against anti-union laws, but we also need to take the necessary actions to beat them right now, which is to vote YES when we get a ballot paper.

Every vote matters. Make sure you use yours.

Getting RMT News at home? If not we may not have your correct address. Call 0800 376 3706 to check your details are up to date.