

There's money there for decent pay...

NORTH WEST STRIKES SHOW HOW TO FIGHT

Arriva bosses in the North West have offered drivers and engineers an insulting 1p per hour extra in their latest offer in the current dispute over pay.

Two thousand drivers and engineers across eleven depots in the North West have so far held seven days of strikes, including every Monday in November.

Unite and GMB members also coordinated their strikes with RMT members on the railways striking back over Driver Only Operation on Merseyrail and Northern Rail on Wednesday 8 November.

Now the drivers have announced a serious escalation. The new dates for action include a three-day strike and a four-day strike in the build up to Christmas.

These are in response to a below inflation pay offer and pay disparity between garages. Same as us!

Profit

Arriva made a profit of £25 million last year and payments to the highest paid director totalled £4.4 million. The money's there for decent pay!

While the bus companies keep their profits rolling in, bus drivers have to worry about things like where they are going to find a toilet!

Arriva drivers and engineers are showing how to fight. Their action is having a big impact across the North West. It can be easy to forget the power drivers have. When strikes are coordinated across the bus companies down here, they can paralyze London.



Workers at the Arriva Bootle depot vote to reject the latest offer Photo: Unite

Where is Unite in all this? We haven't heard a word from the union asking for solidarity with Arriva members in the North West. We want their reps down here for mass meetings with our members. Their fight is our fight!

London

The union promised that things would change if we voted for Sadiq Khan. While it's good that there's now a universal starter rate for bus drivers in London, there is still a massive disparity in rates cross the Fleet.

Tube drivers in London are on £30 an hour and upwards. We should be fighting for £20 an hour and a 35 hour week! The union must be forced to fight. Our union dues pay the officials wages!

The Bus Workers' Bill of Rights is a good initiative. The campaign needs to reach down into every garage, mobilise big numbers and target the bus operators themselves. And for a change the union needs to be fighting for it.

Unite is the biggest union in the country. Len McCluskey boasts proudly of a £35 million war chest for strikes- let's use it!

Drivers need to push the union to

take up their case. In garage after garage there are reports of attacks coming thick and fast. There needs to be a strategy to win and pay is the focus.

The bill of rights needs to be turned into serious garage meetings, escalating protests and a push towards strikes. Bus drivers have the power!

Get the North West drivers down here for mass meetings. Unite for the fight and we can all win! It will be good for them and us.

Bus workers' Bill of Rights

- The right to a safe work schedule without forced overtime or loss of pay.
- The right to a decent and proper rest break in the working day.
- The right to drive a safe and well-maintained vehicle.
- The right to clean, serviced toilet and rest facilities on all bus routes.
- The right to report safety concerns without fear of retribution from TfL or employers.
- The right when seriously ill and covered by a doctor's note to not be harassed into coming into work until fit to do so.
- The right to relevant and timely safety training.
- The right to drive without being forced to answer radio messages and texts from controllers whilst in motion.
- The right to have all company rules in writing and clearly displayed.
- The right to be treated with dignity and respect by our employers, TfL and the public