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Tube plan to shut 144 ticket offices is 'risk to passengers'

Dick Murray, Transport Correspondent
09.12.09

London Underground is planning to close 144 station ticket offices, putting passenger safety and 1,200 jobs at risk, union bosses claimed today.

The RMT union says it has received leaked details of cuts forming part of Mayor Boris Johnson's plan to reduce spending by £5 billion.

Union leader **Bob Crow** claimed the move would put passengers — particularly women travelling at night — at risk and accused LU of a drive "towards unmanned operation of stations". He warned of a major campaign, including strike action, to prevent the cuts.

The 1,200 jobs under threat would be in addition to 1,000 already axed, according to the union. The RMT says it has obtained information from LU's Operational Services Review which indicates "savagely reductions are being prepared across the Tube network".

In his election manifesto the Mayor, who is also chairman of Transport for London, stated he would ensure "there is always a manned ticket office at every station". Today Mr Crow challenged him to demand "the binning of the cuts plan".

Under the plans, only ticket offices at main Tube stations would stay open as usual. Those at smaller control stations would open only at peak times or in "key locations". All other stations would only have machines.

The Evening Standard's Safer Stations campaign, launched in 2008 after the murder of **Tom as Riya Pryce** as he left an unmanned Kenal Green station, has highlighted passengers' fears.

TfL did not deny the union claims but said decisions had not yet been taken. "As we invest billions to upgrade the network, we will be running more frequent and reliable services. Given the economic climate and the need to be ready for changes that will arise when the upgrades are delivered, we are looking at options for how we can be best organised in future."

* **Rail** is on the way for 200,000 Thameslink commuters on Brighton to Bedford trains after drivers' union **Aslef** urged 550 members to accept a new pay deal worth five per cent over two years. Operator **First Capital Connect** has had to cancel up to 200 services a day after drivers stopped overtime and next day working.

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The RMT union says passengers will be put at risk if 144 ticket offices close

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Dear Colleague,

The plan is to close them all after the Olympics. I have received this information from Broadway!

Send this to all your friends who work in tickets offices, who hope to work in ticket offices or who work on stations or train side and point out to them that the first to be seen to respond to this by the Evening Standard is the RMT Union, send it especially to those not in the RMT.

Next year we are going to have a fight on our hands, and there more people who are in the union the stronger and louder our voice will be, and the more people who stand on picket lines and strike the greater the impact will be across the combine sending a message both strong and clear that we are prepared to take a stand to protect our job our pensions and our future.

To join the RMT speak to your local rep, or call FREE 0800 376 3706, or log on to www.rmt.org.uk



Need to contact



Got a problem?
Need help, advice, representation?

Is there an issue at work that you would like the union to take up with management?

Perhaps you would like to get more involved in the union, come to meetings and help with campaigns?

Check out our website for station and revenue staff:
www.rmtplatform.org.uk