



National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers



Jo May
Secretary
Soho Business Alliance

29 November 2022

Dear Jo,

Time is running out to resolve the rail dispute

I'm contacting you today to ask that we work together to persuade the government to take urgent action to resolve the rail dispute.

Last week I met the Secretary of State Mark Harper and impressed on him the need for rapid action. Last night I received a letter from him offering a joint meeting with the Rail Minister, the employers and RMT this Friday. Whilst I have accepted the offer this lack of urgency from the government is astonishing. By this Friday more than a week will have passed since I met the Secretary of State without an offer being put on the table. Time is running out.

We understand the impact that these rail strikes are having on your sector at this time of year, yet while you face disruption to your business at this critical time, the private rail businesses we are in dispute with will not lose a penny. Despite the rail companies being the employers of the staff taking strike action, the government has decided to protect these private rail businesses from being liable for any loss of revenue arising from the strikes. This also ensures that the rail companies can continue to make profits, despite the strike action.

The government's actions also mean that the train operating companies have no incentive to settle the dispute. On the basis of answers given in Parliament by the government, we calculate that by the end of the next round of strikes **the government will have bailed out the train companies to the tune of £318 million to cover the cost of the strikes.**

To be clear, as a result of this indemnification, if these strikes go ahead, **the rail companies will continue to make profits while you will lose money.**

As it is the government which is clearly prolonging this dispute with their taxpayer funded bailout for the private train companies you would clearly be justified in asking what similar steps it will be taking to compensate your businesses.

More importantly however, like you, I want to see a resolution to this dispute.

In Scotland and Wales, RMT has settled similar disputes with the support of the governments there but where companies are controlled by the DfT time is running out. The strikes that are scheduled for the run up to Christmas are a direct consequence of actions being taken by the Secretary of State, so I would urge you to take action to help resolve the

dispute by writing to him calling on him to ensure a meaningful offer is made to facilitate a resolution of the dispute.

Yours sincerely,



Mick Lynch,
General Secretary, RMT

Indemnification statistics

	Value of government indemnification for 16 days of strike action and associated disruption
Chiltern	£9,959,829
Cross Country	£23,580,107
East Anglia	£27,879,008
East Midlands	£16,855,095
Essex Thameside (c2c)	£7,789,097
Great Western	£42,563,371
South Western	£44,648,976
Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern (GTR)	£66,952,182
TransPennine Express	£11,109,040
West Coast	£51,501,679
West Midlands	£16,003,827
TOTAL	£318,842,211