# London bus strikes temporarily called off after wage agreements, signalling potential easing of transit tensions



A significant weekend bus strike threatening to disrupt around 60 routes in north-west and south-west London has been largely called off, following a pay deal accepted by the majority of the affected workers. The strike, which was due to begin early on Friday 12 September and last until Sunday evening, involved Unite union members employed by London United and London Transit bus companies. The dispute centred around pay and working conditions, with London United employees accepting a proposed pay offer on Wednesday, leading to the cancellation of their planned industrial action.

This development follows a pattern of ongoing pay disputes and industrial actions within London's bus services. Earlier in the year, approximately 1,600 London United bus drivers had rejected a four per cent pay offer, arguing it amounted to a real-terms pay cut since the Retail Price Index inflation was at 5.1 per cent at the time. This had prompted a ballot for potential strike action expected to affect around 70 routes across west and south-west London, covering areas such as Chiswick, Brentford, Acton, Ealing, Putney, and Hammersmith. However, the latest acceptance of a pay offer this September indicates some progress in negotiations to prevent service disruption.

The broader context includes similar disputes within London’s transport sector. For instance, in January 2024, bus control room staff at Abellio depots in Battersea and Twickenham, also represented by Unite, launched a series of strikes over pay disagreements. These strikes disrupted services on at least 18 routes, with workers rejecting a five per cent pay increase, viewing it as effectively a pay cut in real terms. Additionally, in September 2022, a planned strike involving Arriva bus drivers in north London was called off after the union secured an 11 per cent pay offer, underscoring the importance of negotiations in averting widespread industrial action.

Transport for London and bus operators have generally welcomed the suspensions or call-offs of strikes, recognising the critical importance of maintaining service continuity in the capital’s extensive transport network. Throughout recent years, strikes have been a recurring feature as workers seek to counteract the impact of inflation on their earnings amid cost-of-living pressures.

Looking beyond buses, London’s transport workers have been involved in other industrial actions; for example, the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union initiated a series of strikes on the London Underground in early September 2025 over pay and working conditions. Such actions highlight the wider challenges faced across London’s public transport workforce in balancing fair remuneration and operational demands.

The recent partial resolution of the bus dispute in London’s north-west and south-west areas may signal a temporary easing of tensions, but the ongoing history of pay-related disputes within the city’s public transport services suggests that such conflicts may continue unless broader, sustainable agreements on pay and conditions are reached.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c708qwer1wko?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c708qwer1wko?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-united-bus-strike-unite-ballot-industrial-action-b1167152.html), [[5]](https://www.fulhamsw6.com/page/shared/common/conbusstrike2406.htm)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/unite-bus-controller-strike-abellio-battersea-twickenham-b1132607.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/bus-strike-called-off-arriva-north-london-unite-union-b1029351.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/september/tfl-welcome-suspension-of-bus-industrial-action), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/bus-strike-called-off-arriva-north-london-unite-union-b1029351.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/09/04/lynq-s04.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c708qwer1wko?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-united-bus-strike-unite-ballot-industrial-action-b1167152.html), [[5]](https://www.fulhamsw6.com/page/shared/common/conbusstrike2406.htm)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c708qwer1wko?at_medium=RSS&at_campaign=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/unite-bus-controller-strike-abellio-battersea-twickenham-b1132607.html> - In January 2024, bus control room staff at Abellio depots in Battersea and Twickenham, represented by the Unite union, initiated a series of six strikes over pay disputes. The industrial action was expected to disrupt at least 18 bus routes in south London, including services such as the 24, 27, 111, 156, and 159. The workers had rejected a five per cent pay increase for 2023 and into 2024, partially backdated, arguing it amounted to a real-terms pay cut. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/unite-bus-controller-strike-abellio-battersea-twickenham-b1132607.html?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-united-bus-strike-unite-ballot-industrial-action-b1167152.html> - In June 2024, approximately 1,600 London United bus drivers, based at seven garages across west and south-west London, rejected a four per cent pay offer and voted on potential strike action. The dispute centred on pay and conditions, with the union arguing that the proposed increase was a real-terms pay cut, as the Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation rate was 5.1 per cent at the time. If the strike proceeded, it was expected to affect 70 bus routes, including services in Chiswick, Brentford, Acton, Ealing, Putney, and Hammersmith. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/london-united-bus-strike-unite-ballot-industrial-action-b1167152.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/bus-strike-called-off-arriva-north-london-unite-union-b1029351.html> - In September 2022, planned strike action by bus drivers employed by Arriva in North London was called off after the Unite union secured an improved pay offer of 11%. The strike had been scheduled to begin on 4 October 2022, with up to 2,000 drivers across eight depots in north London set to walk out. The resolution of the pay dispute led to the cancellation of the planned industrial action. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/bus-strike-called-off-arriva-north-london-unite-union-b1029351.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.fulhamsw6.com/page/shared/common/conbusstrike2406.htm> - In June 2024, Unite the Union announced that bus drivers working for London United had rejected a pay offer and would vote on possible strike action. The 1,600 drivers, based at seven garages across west and south-west London, were in dispute over pay and other issues after rejecting a 4% pay offer, which the union argued represented a real-terms pay cut due to the RPI being 5.1% at the time. If the strike action proceeded, it was expected to affect 70 bus routes, including services in Chiswick, Brentford, Acton, Ealing, Putney, and Hammersmith. ([fulhamsw6.com](https://www.fulhamsw6.com/page/shared/common/conbusstrike2406.htm?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/09/04/lynq-s04.html> - In September 2025, the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union announced a series of strikes on the London Underground over pay and working conditions. The industrial action was set to begin on 5 September and was expected to cause major disruption across the capital’s transport system. The walkout was in protest over pay, shift patterns, and worker fatigue, marking the first full-network Tube strike since March 2023. ([wsws.org](https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/09/04/lynq-s04.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/september/tfl-welcome-suspension-of-bus-industrial-action> - In September 2014, Transport for London (TfL) welcomed the suspension of industrial action on London United bus services on 19 September. The strike had been called by the Unite union, but following an agreement to go to ACAS for talks, the action was suspended. A second 24-hour strike, scheduled for 22 September, was still planned at that time. ([tfl.gov.uk](https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/september/tfl-welcome-suspension-of-bus-industrial-action?utm_source=openai))