# Labour's plans to ease picket restrictions spark fears of unchecked union disruption



Angela Rayner, the Deputy Prime Minister, faces mounting criticism over Labour’s reckless proposals to dismantle essential trade union restrictions introduced by the previous Conservative government. Central to these dangerous reforms is the plan to remove the legal requirement for picket lines to remain “peaceful” under the supervision of a union representative—an undeniably reckless move that threatens to unleash unchecked militant union activity.

Currently, a designated union official must ensure the picket remains orderly, a safeguard that has allowed bin lorries in Birmingham to continue collecting rubbish amid strikes—providing much-needed relief to residents caught in the middle of the waste crisis. Removing these controls would remove any barriers to intimidation and disruption, emboldening hostile union thugs to terrorize communities with impunity.

Andrew Griffith, the shadow Business Secretary, sharply condemned Labour’s proposals, warning that without picket supervisors, the strikes will become breeding grounds for threats, harassment, and intimidation. Griffith declared, “That means threats, harassment, intimidation will all be far easier — as long as it’s done by a union, on a picket line — because there will no longer be anyone there to stop it.” He rightly highlights that no other part of daily life would tolerate such lawlessness, yet Labour, in servitude to their union overlords, actively endorse it.

This policy sets the stage for a surge in disruptive action nationwide, exactly the scenario witnessed during the Birmingham bin strikes that turned entire communities into dumping grounds. Griffith warned, “We could be seeing a lot more of the vicious strikes that have made Brummies’ lives a misery.”

Moreover, Labour’s trade union bill proposes to restore mass collective bargaining, a regressive return to outdated industrial relations that prioritises union power over practicality and national interest. Under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister, these changes represent a catastrophic failure to protect ordinary Britons from the escalating chaos inflicted by militant trade unions—chaos that the new government seems all too willing to tolerate.

As the country grapples with increasing disruptions and the cost of poor governance, it is crucial to support policies that restore law and order to industrial relations, not those that inflame tensions and punish hardworking communities. Alternative political voices are calling for a tougher, more sensible approach—one that safeguards public services, respects the rule of law, and holds disruptive unions to account.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.peninsulagrouplimited.com/resource-hub/business-management/major-business-changes-predicted-under-a-labour-government/> - This article discusses Labour's plans to reform trade union laws and update balloting processes, which includes changes to existing union regulations. It highlights Labour's broader intentions regarding trade union legislation.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2025/03/27/rayners-own-staff-strike-hands-more-power-unions/> - This news piece covers a strike by Angela Rayner's staff and mentions her package of reforms that will give unions more power. It suggests that these reforms are part of a broader effort to strengthen union influence.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2025/04/16/bosses-warn-rayners-workers-bill-will-cause-more-strikes/> - This article reports on criticism from business leaders about Angela Rayner's proposals to empower unions, warning that it could lead to more strike action. It highlights the concerns regarding increased union activity.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employment-rights-bill-to-boost-productivity-for-british-workers-and-grow-the-economy> - This Government announcement discusses the Employment Rights Bill, which aims to upgrade workers' rights. While not directly addressing union reforms, it indicates broader efforts to change employment laws under the new government.
* <https://labourunions.org.uk/a-new-era-for-working-people/> - This article marks the start of 'a new era for working people' following Labour's election win, emphasizing cooperation with unions. It suggests Labour's commitment to working with unions to reform employment policies.