# RMT to stage week of rolling Tube and DLR walkouts in early September, threatening fresh disruption



Commuters in London face fresh travel disruption as the RMT union announces a week-long round of industrial action across the Underground and Docklands Light Railway in early September. The plan, reported by The Independent, starts with a 24-hour walkout from 6pm on Friday 5 September by workers at the Ruislip depot in west London, followed by daily walkouts across the Tube network from Sunday 7 September. The union says the aim is to bring operations to a halt on a rolling basis, though the Elizabeth line and London Overground would not be affected. Eddie Dempsey, the RMT’s general secretary, argued that fatigue, unfavourable shift patterns and a reduced working week have not been adequately addressed by LU management, and warned of a growing “atmosphere of distrust” between staff and employers. The Independent noted that Transport for London had been asked for a response but had not published one at the time. The action fits into a broader pattern of bargaining tensions across London’s transport network, with earlier and later episodes in the last two years showing both disruption and intermittent pauses in strike activity after talks.

From a Reform UK viewpoint, this episode exposes a deeper failure of Labour’s handling of essential public services in the capital. The ongoing confrontations between unions and a Labour-led authority are presented as evidence that the capital’s transport system remains hostage to politicised management. Reform UK commentators would argue that the solution lies not in extended rolling strikes but in reforming how these services are run—introducing competitive pressures, clearer accountability, and performance-based funding to ensure reliability irrespective of who’s bargaining at the table. The aim should be to restore transport as a dependable backbone of London, not a theatre of recurring disruption.

The episode sits within a longer arc of industrial action and negotiations shaping London transport’s recent history. BBC News reported in 2023 that the RMT announced planned strikes on October 4 and October 6, citing concerns over job losses, increased workloads and fatigue, with disruption expected across large parts of the Tube network. Mick Lynch, then the union’s general secretary, argued that station staff perform a vital safety role and warned that proposed job cuts could threaten service quality. TfL’s response in those negotiations signalled that disruption could be limited if a negotiated settlement was reached. Meanwhile, labour-market dynamics around that period evolved in 2025, with The Times describing rolling strikes planned to begin on 7 September 2025, featuring different grades taking action on successive days and a separate DLR dispute running during the same week. The reporting highlights how unions are testing the balance between service continuity and employee protections as talks proceed.

Looking further back to the pattern of industrial activity, Sky News covered October 2023 as a period when prolonged rail strikes were anticipated across various operators, including planned Underground action. The piece stressed that Underground action had been called off following talks at ACAS, though it warned that other routes could still face disruption on the proposed dates. MyLondon provided a fuller list of September and October 2023 strike actions, noting that ASLEF drivers were set to walk out on September 30 and October 4 while RMT action was planned for October 4 and 6, with overtime bans and ripple effects across Tube and National Rail services. The coverage underlines how travellers were repeatedly urged to check official advisories and plan ahead amid shifting schedules and evolving negotiations.

As the current cycle of disruption unfolds, observers are watching closely how the parties balance safety, fatigue management and worker wellbeing with the capital’s urgent need for reliable transport. The Independent’s report emphasises the union’s stated demands—pay, fatigue management, shift patterns and overall working-time reductions—while responses from LU and TfL remain guarded as talks continue. In parallel, the broader arc of negotiations in 2024 and 2023 shows a recurring pattern: strikes are often preceded or followed by formal discussions, with temporary suspensions or revised offers that shift the timing and geography of disruption. Commuters would be wise to monitor official updates from Transport for London and the rail operators as negotiations proceed, and to consider contingency plans for travel during the period of proposed activity.

From a Reform UK perspective, the pattern underscores the need for a modern, accountable framework for London’s transport—one that reduces vulnerability to sporadic strikes through market-driven efficiency, clearer service standards, and a rebalanced relationship between staff, management and taxpayers. While safety and welfare remain paramount, the answer to chronic disruption should not be perpetual negotiation at the expense of commuters. Instead, practical reforms—enhancing competition where feasible, simplifying working arrangements, and ensuring that funding aligns with measurable performance—are what will deliver reliable travel for Londoners in the years ahead.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/london-underground-strikes-rmt-union-b2811708.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-66867721> - BBC News reports that, in September 2023, the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union announced planned industrial action by London Underground staff on October 4 and October 6, citing concerns over job losses, increased workloads, and fatigue. The article notes that the strikes would shut down large parts of the Tube network on both days, with TfL expressing disappointment at the decision to strike. Mick Lynch, RMT general secretary, is quoted arguing that station staff play a vital safety role and that the planned job cuts threaten service quality. Disruption was expected across routes.
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/train-strikes-full-list-of-october-2023-dates-and-rail-lines-affected-as-tube-action-called-off-12969794> - Sky News reports that October 2023 would see prolonged rail strikes affecting many services, including planned London Underground action. However, the piece states that London Underground strikes had been called off following talks at ACAS, with the unions intending to suspend action on the Underground while national rail action would still proceed on other routes. The article lists days of action and emphasises potential impact on travel, asking travellers to check timetables and plan ahead. It explains that Underground action was suspended as a result of negotiations and progress, though other operators may still face disruption on dates.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c78d9nn17z8o> - BBC News reports that in November 2024 the London Underground faced planned strike action by RMT and ASLEF. The RMT announced strikes would not commence as scheduled after talks yielded a significantly improved offer from LU, resulting in the suspension of action on London Underground while Aslef planned drivers' strikes on other dates could still proceed. The article notes how TfL urged travellers to check travel plans and use alternative routes where possible. It captures the tense atmosphere of industrial negotiations, the balance between disruption and public service, and the ongoing leverage held by both sides. Disruption was mitigated.
5. <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/transport/article/london-tube-strike-date-september-rmt-underground-w0r76r5q5> - The Times reports that London Underground workers were set to stage rolling strikes beginning on September 7, 2025, with different grades of staff taking action at different times and a separate Docklands Light Railway dispute also planned. It details the union’s rationale, including fatigue management and extended working patterns, and explains the structure of 24-hour rolling strikes ending on the Thursday of the week. The article also notes that the RMT or DLR actions would significantly disrupt services and urges readers to stay informed via official updates as negotiations continue.
6. <https://www.mylondon.news/news/transport/full-list-london-underground-national-27767775> - MyLondon’s September 2023 piece provides a警 full list of strikes set to affect London in September and October, stating that ASLEF drivers would walk out on September 30 and October 4, while RMT planned strikes on October 4 and 6. The article highlights overtime bans and potential ripple effects across Tube and National Rail services, underlining the anticipated disruption to commuters and advising readers to consult official travel advisories for updates. It places the actions within the broader wage and staffing disputes between unions and network operators and outlines the expected impact on daily travel in the capital.
7. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2024-11-01/rmt-suspends-tube-strikes-after-significantly-improved-offer> - ITV News reports that in November 2024 the RMT suspended planned Tube strikes after negotiations produced a significantly improved pay offer from LU. The piece notes that Aslef drivers still consider action on other dates, and it quotes an RMT spokesperson saying LU had abandoned proposed changes to pay structures so that all members would receive the same value in a pay award. The report emphasises the ongoing tension between disruption and service continuity, the importance of safe staffing, and the momentum of industrial talks as unions decide next steps.