



Why we are not striking

A lot of lies have been told about why tube drivers at Morden are on strike today. Even Peter Hendy, Transport Commissioner for London, Knight of the Realm and Boris Johnson's right hand man has got in on the act. Hendy, the millionaire philanderer who last year was exposed as regularly using a £140 an hour prostitute, is using his position to lie about Alex McGuigan, a tube driver with a 29 year clean record who has been unfairly dismissed. He stated on LBC that Alex was "dismissed for drinking on duty." This is an out and out lie – Alex wasn't even accused of this by his managers. The RMT fully supports the policy of zero tolerance for train drivers – we operate one of the safest transport systems in the world and we want to keep it that way.

Why we are striking

Alex suffers from a number of medical conditions which can give false positives in breathalyser tests. He willingly submitted to a random breath test safe in the knowledge that he had complied with the Underground's guidelines on alcohol consumption. He was surprised to be tested positive – he was under the legal limit for driving a car, but breached the zero tolerance policy. However, as they also took two samples of urine he was confident that this would prove he was not drunk on duty. Unfortunately for Alex, LUL destroyed both samples of urine before he could take his sample for an independent test. The Underground also failed to carry out the medical review that is required whenever anyone tests positive during a random test. Had they done so, this too would have proven that Alex was not drunk on duty.

What we want

There isn't a police force in the country that would prosecute someone based purely on a breathalyser test; it is acknowledged that the standard of evidence required for conviction is not met by hand-held breathalyser equipment. We want the same level of probity for Alex. We want Alex re-instated and we want the Underground to amend its policy to allow secondary testing for drivers who test positive. Put simply – we want LUL to operate a safe transport system and also to treat its staff fairly.

Reinstate Alex – for Safety and Fairness