

We are sorry for the inconvenience

We are striking because a foreign multinational company, Transdev, wants to get rid of staff on your trains and move to driver only operation at the expense of passenger safety and security.

We hope you will understand that our decision is not taken lightly. This strike is NOT about wanting more money but is focussed entirely on safety and security and is about ensuring every train has a permanent uniformed member of staff on board.

The Rail and Maritime Transport Union has worked long and hard over many, many years to improve and protect the health and safety of our members, passengers and the public on the rail corridor.

We have participated in a risk assessment with Transdev and provided information about our concerns over security and safety in relation to driver only operation. We have also submitted these concerns to Worksafe and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Our members provide a safety critical service ensuring trains are safe and secure and that vulnerable passengers can access the network. They are first responders in the event of medical, on-board and trackside emergencies. Taking them off the trains will undermine your safety and security.

This foreign multinational company still will not agree to abandon its plans to introduce driver only trains on Auckland's commuter rail network.

Talks with Transdev have been going on for since early May and have broken down over this issue.

Transdev operate the trains on behalf of Auckland Transport and would not be proposing to remove on-board crews without their support.

Auckland Transport have said they will deploy up to 230 "Transport Officers" on the rail, bus and ferry networks if and when driver only trains are introduced.

There will NOT be enough of these Transport Officers to guarantee a uniformed member of staff on every train at any given time. Auckland Transport have told us they will not be "operational" or "safety critical" staff, unlike the current on-board crews.



Whilst we have no objection to the deployment of more uniformed staff on the network we firmly believe this must be in addition to, NOT instead of, those who already staff your trains.

if the RMTU accepted these cuts to train staffing the only winners would be the foreign operator –who will make more profit that will disappear offshore.

The biggest losers would be the travelling public and our people who work on the trains

We don't have a choice.

If we could find a way to negotiate that didn't require strike action we would take it immediately

We are sincerely sorry that you – our loyal and supportive customers – are caught in the middle of this dispute.

We don't want to inconvenience passengers but we will not compromise over your safety and security.

We ask for your patience and support.

Thank you,

Wayne Butson

General Secretary

Rail and Maritime Transport Union

