

Swindon RMT Bulletin

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RAILTRACK OFFER - A PITTANCE FOR SOME A CUT IN TAKE-HOME PAY FOR OTHERS.

Railtrack have finally done it. In the interests of "meeting the aspirations" of signalmen/women they have come up with a package which offers an increase for 75% of staff. How many? According to their own figures 25% of staff will earn less in a package which is supposed to recognise the level of responsibility of this grade!

The increase on average earnings which is on offer amounts to £4 a week. Relief staff can expect **to lose anything between £1,500 and £2,500 a year!** This amounts to cutting the earnings of some to pay for a piffling increase for the rest.

Recognising the skill level of staff, Railtrack want 'flexibility' which will involve - high tech work like cleaning, parcels and retail work (selling tickets!).

Instead of a fixed rate for a particular job or grade, management want banded pay scales, a recipe for the blue eyed boy or girl syndrome. If your face fits you'll get more money. If you have an 'attitude problem', i.e you're a rep who stands up to the management, you'll be on the low end of the scale.

Speaking on radio, part-time manager Bob Horton, admitted that there would be "some losers" as there "always have to be in any deal". Why? How do you recognise the responsibility in a job, the high skill level, by cutting the take home pay of at least a quarter of the staff involved?

For the second week the strike of our members has been solid. Railtrack management have operated a few services by using managers and non RMT supervisors. From a safety aspect this is highly dubious. But in any case it is purely for cosmetic purposes in order that they can say they ran some trains.

The RMT has decided to organise two more one day strikes on the next two Wednesdays. Railtrack management have shown their contempt for these staff and the emptiness of their expressed concern to give them a 'good deal'. They have given them nothing for cutting their numbers. Signalmen/women will treat this offer with the same contempt that has been shown to them. The RMT remains prepared to negotiate, but not on the basis of a package which will **worsen the conditions of many of these workers.**