

Support the Tyne and Wear Metro cleaners campaign for a living wage

1. Newcastle City Unison support the Tyne and Wear Metro cleaners in their fight for:
 - A living wage (this year these minimum wage cleaners have been given a pay freeze)
 - Access to travel passes for the network they clean
 - Access to a pension fund
 - An end to victimisation and bullying
2. We note the recent Employment Tribunal Hearing found Churchill's guilty of unfair dismissal and victimisation of an RMT member for raising concerns about Churchills, and awarded RMT member compensation
3. We support and agree with the Early Day Motion submitted by Ian Mearns MP (and supported by other North East MPs) see below:

“That this House commends the work undertaken by the cleaners employed by Churchill Contract Services on the Tyne and Wear Metro; notes they are paid minimum wage rates for the vital work they ...do; believes that the recent decision to freeze their wages was unmerited considering company profits had doubled over the last five years and directors' pay had risen up to 18 per cent; calls on the company to return to negotiations with Tyne and Wear Metro cleaners to resolve this pay dispute to prevent further industrial action; supports the cleaners and their fight for fair pay; and congratulates those councillors who are campaigning for a living wage in the North East region.”
4. We congratulate them on there 100% yes vote for action and solid strike action so far, and offer our full support to them.
5. We call on other Labour MPs to support the EDM
6. We call on Labour councillors to support the cleaners, and demand that Churchill's (who run the cleaning services after the council's 'contracted out' the metro provision to DB Regio who subsequently subcontracted cleaning services to Churchill's) and DB Regio immediately meet with the RMT cleaners representatives to discuss pay and conditions, and to investigate if it is possible for the Transport Authority to offer the free travel passes for the cleaners as a sign of councillors support.
7. To consider what other action we can take and what support we can give.

Submitted by: Ed Whitby – Shop Steward