

Submit a strike report

Notes From Below and Strike Map are collating strike reports from across the country to help document this summer's strike action. We want to hear directly from workers about their experiences and thoughts rather than just letting journalists, whether hostile or sympathetic, narrate the “hot strike summer.” Sharing experiences of strikes is important for building our collective power. Other workers can read these, be inspired, and learn from them!

We have reproduced the report questions below, and the report can be filled out online at: <https://notesfrombelow.org/article/submit-your-strike-report>

Why are you on strike?

We want to find out more about the motivations for striking. We assume most ongoing strikes are about pay, but are particularly interested in hearing about any other factors that might be contributing to your decision to go on strike.

What tactics are you using in your strike?

We want to know what your strike looks like on the ground. Are you picketing your workplace? How big are the pickets? Are they located at all work sites? Are you organising any protests or events to support the strike? Do you have supporters joining in with any action? How are you maximising your leverage over your bosses?

What comes next?

We're interested in hearing about what you think will happen next. Does it seem like your bosses are going to give in? Do you have plans to escalate your action? Are the government involved in your dispute?

Is your strike part of something bigger?

After a long period of very low strike numbers, it seems like lots of us are going on strike this summer. We want to know how you think your strike relates (or doesn't relate) to the other strikes going on at the moment, and what bigger issues you think it raises. What potential is there for solidarity between strikers? How are these strikes going to be represented politically? What do you think about the Tory plans to crack down on strike action, and how do you think we should oppose them?



Workers' reports from the pickets

Wildcat strike at Amazon

In reaction to the news that Amazon would only give us a 35p pay rise, many of us stopped working. We hadn't planned to walk out beforehand, but the news encouraged many people to do something. At least 200 workers were originally involved.

After, the managers sent the GM over to speak with us. They lost their temper with us, and had no idea how to speak to us and try to end our strike. The next shift - the night shift - joined us with a massive strike. The next morning on Thursday, everyone was still mad. We therefore decided to strike again from 8am until we got an answer.

The GM then told us anyone who did not go back to work was going to be automatically clocked out in 10 minutes. The majority of us stayed out striking. After almost three hours, we were all still logged in on the Amazon app as being at work, meaning the GM had not actually clocked us out like they had threatened to.

After a few days, we were no longer fully striking. However, we decided that we will not try and reach any targets, and instead try and make our job easier by working slow.

Strike Report From a Postal Worker

Like most people in this country, I am striking because I need more money to live cos everything is fucking expensive. Another reason, is that the work is getting harder and harder. I started working at Royal Mail 3 years ago, since then the workload is always increasing. Come winter I don't know how we'll cope when the workload doubles.

Royal Mail wants us to come in on Sundays as part of their 'agreement', but this is unacceptable. For so many of our colleagues Sunday is important: it's the only day they're guaranteed to spend time with their families. Did the lord not say to respect the Sabbath day?

In general, more than anything, I want better conditions. I love this job - but it's taking its physical toll on me. I've developed various physical injuries because of this job, including early osteoarthritis in my knees (I'm 29!) At this rate I'm not sure if I can keep doing this.

I think if this strike extends into the winter period, ordinary people will really start to feel the impact as it's the busiest period. The offices depend on staff doing over-time work, so doing do a 'work to your time' initiative, in tandem with strike action could be very effective.

The Tories have always tried and in many cases succeeded in cracking down on organised labour. Eventually though, there will come a breaking point, where people just won't care. If you're going to starve whilst being employed versus whilst being unemployed, what does it matter? If things carry on as they are, and the wealth disparity increases, I can envision a lot more unofficial strike action, like that at Amazon this year.

