

# Abellio rail workers in the East Midlands to ballot for strikes

September 1, 2022



Workers employed by Abellio at East Midlands Railway (EMR) are to be balloted for industrial action after the union Unite claimed the employer refused to make a pay offer to the workforce.

Unite represents over 140 workers at the company who are based at depots in Derby, Leicester and Nottingham. The staff are cleaners, technicians, shunters, engineers, inspectors, lathe operators, team leaders and supervisors.

The ballot for industrial action will open on Friday 2 September and closes on Friday 16 September. If workers vote for industrial action then stoppages are set to begin this autumn.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "What on earth are Abellio and the Department for Transport playing at? We are currently in the midst of the worst cost of living crisis in decades and between them they can't make our members a pay offer?"

"Unite is now entirely focussed on defending the jobs, pay and conditions of its members and it will be giving its total support to our members at Abellio during this dispute."

The union said Abellio has justified its failure to make an offer as it claims that the DfT has not authorised it to make a pay offer to its workers.

Unite regional officer Andy Shaw said: “Members are balloting for industrial action as a last resort due to Abellio’s failure to make our members a pay offer.”

The RMT and TSSA are also involved in the dispute.