

Industrial action strikes the heart of the Conservative Party conference

October 5, 2022



The Prime Minister was left with a depleted audience at the Conservative Party conference after today's rail strikes saw an early exit yesterday for many delegates.

Liz Truss addressed audiences at the ICC in Birmingham today, however due to planned industrial action by members of the drivers' union [Aslef](#) and the [Transport Salaried Staffs Association \(TSSA\)](#), many people were seen leaving early on Tuesday night, to avoid getting tangled up in station closures and travel trouble from Birmingham.

TSSA general secretary Manuel Cortes said: "We saw only last weekend that our strike action was rock-solid across the country. Our brilliant members remain determined to see their demands met in the shape of a just settlement.

"We do not strike lightly but are prepared to dig in as we seek a fair deal on pay, job security and conditions in the face of cuts, economic collapse and a cost-of-living crisis at the hands of this chaotic Tory government.

"With more strikes and wider industrial action in the offing this week, it's time for ministers to get wise and act now to deliver a fair deal which will halt a winter of rail misery across the network."

The strike is another in a series of recent disputes about pay, jobs and conditions, with members of Aslef and TSSA not the only organisations to be taking up the picket line.

The TSSA is also planning industrial action on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th October, while members of the [Rail, Maritime and Transport \(RMT\)](#) union at more than a dozen train companies and [Network Rail](#) will also strike on Saturday.

It was announced today that unite members from [Abellio East Midlands](#) will also be downing tools for two 48-hour strikes this month over pay debates.

Image credit: Hannah McKay/Reuters