

STUART/JUST EAT COURIERS STRIKE AGAINST PAY CUTS

SPREAD THE STRIKE NATIONALLY TO WIN

Food delivery couriers working for Stuart Delivery - a subsidiary of DPD Group and a subcontractor of JustEat - are into their second week of indefinite strike action in Sheffield.

Picket lines of striking drivers, members of the Independent Workers Great Britain union (IWGB), and supporters are repeatedly blocking six McDonalds - one of Just Eats biggest clients - from 5pm to 10pm every night.

Dozens of drivers are refusing to take orders, JustEat services have been shut down several times, and drivers in nearby Chesterfield have now joined the strike. The IWGB say this is the biggest continuous food delivery app strike in UK history.

If successful, this fight will have huge implications for the wider gig worker struggle.

Pay cut

The drivers are striking because their pay has been slashed by up to 24% just weeks before Christmas as fuel prices and inflation are rising.

Paris, one of the striking drivers, said: "Everything has gone up in the UK,

even the minimum living wage has gone up, gas and electricity have gone up, petrol and diesel have gone up. For Stuart and JustEat to drop what they're paying us is not right at all. It's poverty pay already. With this new pay structure, we won't be able to pay off our bills. It's heartbreaking."

The pay cut was implemented nationally (outside London) in October but some Sheffield drivers, already organising in the IWGB, protested at the management Zoom meeting. Under pressure, the pay cut in Sheffield was delayed until 6 December, which is when the strike began.

Strike spreads

As well as extending the strike in Sheffield, the drivers want to spread the action nationally. On 11 December, 20 courier drivers in Sunderland went on strike and marched against the pay cut without even being members of the union! They'll be joining the strike, as will Huddersfield drivers from 17 December. News of the strike has spread around the world with couriers in Hong Kong also taking action.

The union are demanding a pay rise, dignity, respect, and paid waiting times after 10 minutes. It has been

inspiring to see these exploited, self-employed, mainly migrant workers get organised and make a stand which has rallied local activists to support the pickets every night.

All trade unionists and socialists should support this important struggle and try to spread it to your city or town by contacting couriers picking up deliveries from any major fast food outlets and organising meetings and protests.

*As a small independent union, the IWGB has no strike fund so is appealing for trade union donations to sustain the strike action.
Send cheques to IWGB, 15 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 9PJ*

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