

# Sunderland bus strike vote begins



## Stagecoach needs to give workers respect because if they go on strike, Sunderland will grind to a halt

Almost 200 Stagecoach bus drivers in Sunderland have begun voting on strike action.

The ballot closes on 26 September and if GMB members vote to walk out the city will 'grind to a halt', the union warned,

Workers are angry after being offered a massive real terms pay cut of just 4 per cent, with 2 per cent to follow later in the year.

Any strike action would take place October.

Stuart Gilhespy, GMB Organiser, said:



"These workers put their lives at risk during the pandemic. Many of them caught covid.

"Stagecoach is repaying their loyalty with a whopping real terms pay cut. The company has a cavalier attitude to pay talks and the basic approach is 'like it or lump it'.

"It's disgraceful.

"Stagecoach needs to give workers the respect they deserve because if they go on strike, Sunderland will grind to a halt."

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## Press office

079859 1525698

[press.office@gmb.org.uk](mailto:press.office@gmb.org.uk)

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[info@gmb.org.uk](mailto:info@gmb.org.uk)

