Local Government

# Sunderland bus safety fears as strike-breaking bosses get behind the wheel

**Driving a 12 tonne double decker bus isn't as simple as passing a driving test**

Drivers have raised safety fears and office managers get behind the wheel in a bid to break the Sunderland bus strike today.

Almost 200 Stagecoach bus drivers in Sunderland have begun strike action today [Tuesday 11 October 2022]

But in a bid to undermine industrial action, Stagecoach North East bosses are getting behind the wheel of the 12 tonne double decker buses to run a reduced service.

The management team have the required license, but little or no experience on the roads.

Sunderland bus drivers are on strike a being offered a massive real terms pay cut of just 4 per cent, with 2 per cent to follow later in the year.

**Stuart Gilhespy, GMB Organiser, said:**

“Driving a 12 tonne double decker bus isn’t as simple as passing a driving test.

“To be fully in safe control of these vehicles around buy roads takes proper, on street experience.

“Buses deliver the most precious cargo in the world; people and their children.

“Instead of trying to break the strike and put people at risk, Stagecoach should concentrate on giving drivers a wage they can live on.”

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