

BA: United we stand campaign

Timeline

British Airways is on a collision course with thousands of cabin crew amid draconian plans to axe 1,700 jobs, impose a two-year wage freeze and introduce a second tier workforce.

Unite cabin crew members at BA recognise the pressures facing the company in the midst of the current economic crisis. Negotiations have been going on for over a year, but despite cabin crew being asked to make the heftiest sacrifices of all, BA's management continues to provoke cabin crew by imposing changes and refusing to negotiate openly and fairly.

Find out more on the background to the British Airways dispute.

January 2009

Talks begin between Unite and BA to look at ways to make savings across the airline. Cabin crew are asked to make the heftiest sacrifices of all.



Spring 2009

Unite and cabin crew present counter proposals offering over £100 million in savings, many of these paid for by cabin crew in pay and working changes. Crew say "we'll pay to keep service high". BA rejects these offers.

May 2009

Talks continue. BA imposes a deadline of June 30th for conclusion.

June 30th, 2009

BA walks away from talks; Unite urges the company to keep talking

Summer 2009

Efforts are made to get talks back on track. Acas offers to facilitate.

September 2009

Unite and BA get talking again.

October 2009

BA writes to all cabin crew to inform them that wholesale changes will be imposed and crew cut from November 16th

November 16th

BA flights operate with between 1 and up to 3 fewer cabin crew; over 1,000 crew are to leave; workloads for remaining crews increase; crew fear that passengers service is hit; Unite begins ballot on industrial action to oppose imposition



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December 2009

Cabin crew vote by a massive 92 per cent to strike on a turnout of over 80 per cent. Crew announce strike dates.

December 17th 2009

BA challenges ballot result; the High Court rules to stop the strike. Unite vows to re-ballot.

January 2010

Talks begin anew between the two parties. Unite and the cabin crew again offer significant concessions. BA again rejects them. Unite is forced to announce a new ballot.

A customer services director, the most senior crew on the flight, and responsible for all crew and passenger service, will earn £28,000 after many, many years of service

BA is paying one consultant £1,000 PER DAY during the dispute. The money wasted on this in two weeks could pay for a trained crew member for a whole year

20th January 2010

A strike over the Easter holiday is ruled out by Unite in a bid to force BA to focus on finding a resolution.

20th January 2010

BA announces it is looking for "strike breakers" to stand in during crew in the event of a strike. Unite denounces this as "provocation" and warns it will divide the company.

January 25th 2010

A fresh ballot for industrial action begins.

February 22nd 2010

Ballot result to be announced.

March 1st 2010

First possible date for strike action if ballot result positive.

Crew's meal allowances are taxed and don't cover the cost of their overseas trips. One crew member paid £15 for a yoghurt in Tokyo