



J.S. so ye get a call to go to talks, without preconditions, who makes the decision to (a) call ye in and (b) who makes the decision to accept or not?

B.D. That's easy, the Workplace Relations Commission normally decide on whether to call the parties in or not, they would normally do this having first consulted with the Company and the Unions using back channels.

J.S. Sorry I feekin well asked, but back channels?

B.D. Yes, tic-tacking like. Sus out if the parties are up for talking or not.

J.S. Talking or not? You already told me that ye would accept talks if no preconditions, which is it? For example on ye're side, who says ok, we'll go to talks if invited?

B.D. The Trade Union Leaders would normally make that call, after first speaking with the Representatives to see what us lads on the picket line are saying.

J.S. Just so I get this part, what your saying is that the reps will talk to the ye and then get the message back to the big boys in the union, so the question has to be, what is the feeling of ye guys on the picket line?

B.D. Being honest? There are mixed feelings among the lads, no one wants to be on strike, also in every dispute there is eventually a settlement. Plus the union leaders have been upfront on saying that they will attend talks if there are no preconditions, so we would think that there is a way to sort this one.

J.S. As clear as Mud... Only joking, I think I have a better understanding now, can Joe and Josephine Soap be of any help here?

B.D. Well your ordinary Joe/Josephine Soap can canvass some of the politicians, especially Government TD's and those in Fianna Fail and ask them to apply some pressure.

If any of your mates are working for Dublin Bus they should contact their Union rep and ask him/her what the score is about getting back around the table.

J.S. Where am I going to find these politicians?

Please contact Government TD's to ask why they have not sorted out this strike:

Fine Gael <http://www.finegael.ie/our-people/fds/>

Independent Alliance info@independentalliance.ie

Fianna Fail supporting a minority Government <https://www.fiannafail.ie/our-people/>



MORE BUS STRIKES/All Ireland Final Replay?

Bus Driver and Joe Soap One Week On.

J.S. See ye're in trouble again? Dubs and Mayo draw to make matters worse!!

B.D. Sod's law alright, but look, we'd rather sort it before the replay to be honest.

J.S. is that really a possibility?

B.D. Well, that really depends on the powers that be.

J.S. You said that last time, what makes you think this time different? Minister Ross says no way that he's opening the State Chequebook.

B.D. Look, slugging aside, all we want is the Minister to do his job and support Dublin Bus in coming back to the table without preconditions.

J.S. Preconditions? You off with your fancy jargon again? Can you give me, an ordinary Joe Soap, the Ladybird version please?

B.D. Well, I'll try, you see Ross the Boss is getting fed the State Chequebook line from his trusty mandarins in the Department of Transport, turn it on us workers like.

J.S. I'm struggling here..!!

B.D. Sorry, but if you make it look like we're looking for you and other taxpayers to pay our wages then they, as in the mandarins are hoping that public opinion will turn against us.

J.S. Simple question bud, are they right?

B.D. Simple answer, no. But I feel I should really explain this part, so forgive me for being a bit long winded.

You see during the recession stacks of money was taken from lots of public services, you know like Health, Education, Guards, Army, Local Authorities etc.

Transport was obviously another one of those, you'll remember last week that I told you that successive Governments took €27m from Dublin Bus since 2008?

J.S. Yep, but what in the name of empty bus lanes has that got to do with the Bus Strikes?

B.D. Well, what the unions are trying to do here is to explain to Joe Public that the shortfall in this vital and necessary funding is essentially being made up by you and me.