



Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union
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For immediate release

- **Facebook Cleaners vote to strike**
- **Union warns of ‘devastating impact’ of extreme workloads**
- **Employer imposes similar changes at other Facebook sites**
- **Facebook refuses to intervene**

Cleaners at Facebook have voted to go on strike.

Around a dozen cleaners at Facebook’s Brock Street offices in central London have voted in support of industrial action in response to increased workloads, which they say are making them sick and exhausted.

An initial one-day strike will take place early in the new year on a date yet to be confirmed, with further actions to follow.

The industrial action was supported by 100% of the cleaners who voted in the ballot. The decision to strike follows months of campaigning by the cleaners and their union, the Cleaners and Allied Independent Workers Union, against workload increases which the union says are having a devastating impact on its members.

Since taking over the Facebook contract in January, the cleaners’ employer, Churchill Cleaning, has imposed a range of significant changes to the cleaning rota at Brock Street. These include more than doubling the area for which the cleaners are responsible, introducing strict time limits for cleaning-related activities, and imposing sanctions on cleaners who fail to comply with the revised schedule. Churchill has also reduced the workforce, failing to replace cleaners who are absent due to leave, sickness or permanent departure and thereby placing even further pressure on those that remain.

The cleaners say the increased workloads have led to a range of health issues including general exhaustion, back pain, the regular use of painkillers, elevated levels of stress, and,

in one case, internal bleeding. They have also led to the dismissal of the cleaners' union representative Guillermo Camacho, who was fired in September following so-called third party pressure from JLL, Facebook's facilities management company.

Cleaners at Facebook's other London sites at Rathbone Square and Shaftesbury Avenue are concerned at Churchill's attempts to impose similar changes at those locations. As well as increasing workloads, the company has engaged in underhand attempts to mislead employees into accepting fundamental contractual adjustments to their working conditions. Cleaners also report acts of favouritism by Churchill's managers towards certain members of staff. Like their Brock Street colleagues, the Rathbone Square and Shaftesbury Avenue cleaners are considering the possibility of strike action which, if approved, could lead to a London-wide strike by Facebook's cleaning staff.

Facebook itself has consistently refused to become involved in the dispute. In response to repeated approaches from the CAIWU, the company has said only that the wellbeing of everyone working at its offices is its top priority, and that the cleaners' specific complaints are a matter for its contractors.

About CAIWU: The Cleaners & Allied Independent Workers Union is a registered trade union representing over a thousand workers mainly in London's cleaning industry. We believe that every human being is entitled to dignity and respect in the workplace, and it is our mission to help our members fight for this basic right, along with others like fair pay, terms and work conditions.

About Churchill: The Churchill Group is a multi-service group of companies based in Hertfordshire. It took over the cleaning contract for Facebook's London offices in January 2021. According to its website, the company believes 'in doing right by our people, our customers, our society and our planet'. It says its principal philosophy is 'doing the right thing'.

About JLL: JLL — Jones Lang LaSalle — is a US-based global Facilities Management company hired by Facebook to oversee the management and maintenance of its London offices. The company describes itself as 'a leading global provider of real estate and investment management services'.

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