

Border Force staff at Heathrow to launch strike in rosters dispute



Our unmissable weekly email of all the gossip, rumours and covert goings-on inside the Square Mile

Sign up

I would like to be emailed about offers, event and updates from Evening Standard. Read our [privacy notice](#).

[Border Force](#) staff at [Heathrow](#) Airport will launch a four-day strike on Saturday in a long-running dispute over rosters.

Around 650 members of the Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) will walk out amid complaints that new rosters are inflexible.

The staff will then work to rule and refuse to work overtime from September 4 to 22.

Managers could easily resolve the issue by allowing greater flexibility and by agreeing fixed shifts that give our members the chance to plan their caring responsibilities

Fran Heathcote

The union said its research showed that four in five Heathrow

Border Force workers suffer from stress at work.

More than one in four have taken time off due to stress or related mental health reasons since the introduction of the new rosters in April, said the union.

Most staff regularly worry about managing home commitments around work, according to the PCS.

General secretary Fran Heathcote said: "This survey shows how badly our members' wellbeing is being affected by the new roster system.

"These inflexible rosters are preventing parents dropping off and picking up their children from school. Managers could easily resolve the issue by allowing greater flexibility and by agreeing fixed shifts that give our members the chance to plan their caring responsibilities."

A [Home Office](#) spokesperson said: "We appreciate the tireless work that Border Force do to keep our borders safe and secure, and we are committed to continuing our conversations with the union so we can find an agreement that works for both the public and staff.

"We will have robust plans in place to minimise disruption where possible, but we urge passengers to check the latest advice from operators before they travel."