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LABOUR OFFERS TRAIN DRIVERS BUMPER PAY DEAL TO END STRIKES

After two years of rail misery, they're offered almost **15%** over three years — and they **WON'T** have to reform working practices

By **David Churchill**
Chief Political Correspondent

TWO years of crippling rail strikes could soon be over after the Government caved in to union demands and offered a 14 per cent pay hike.

Ministers yesterday said they had struck a deal which would see the average train driver's salary – for a four-day week – soar from £60,000 to £69,000.

The news will come as a relief to travellers who have suffered repeated misery as a result of Aslef's 18 strikes over two years – the longest rail dispute in recent history. But it opens Labour up to accusations that it has again surrendered to its union 'paymasters' because the deal comes with no strings attached.

And there are fears ticket prices will increase more than they otherwise would have done if the Treasury refuses to stump up the estimated £100million the pay rise will cost.

The deal is more generous than the previous Tory government's offer of an 8 per cent pay increase over two years. This also included conditions such as compulsory Sunday working, but Labour has scrapped



Video message:
The Prince and
Princess of Wales

Rebecca English
EXCLUSIVE

Why Kate's year has been tougher than anyone realises

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