

Defend the Civil Service Compensation Scheme: No to job cuts on the cheap!

The PCS NEC has decided to ballot for Industrial Action on the Governments proposals to tear up Government workers contracts covering the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. PCS members know that this is an undisguised attempt to cut jobs and privatise on the cheap. While the Government is cynically trying to portray these proposals as an attempt to tackle "excessive" redundancy pay-outs for the tiny amount of highly paid civil servants, it is the low-paid majority who will be affected.

A resounding "yes" vote to both questions, from PCS members is vital if the union is to force the Government back to the negotiating table.

The employer has already underestimated the anger felt. In an unprecedented display of anger, more than 18,000 members have already directly responded to the management consultation telling them exactly what they think of their ironically named "fairness for all" package and the swingeing cuts it proposes to members' contractual rights. This overwhelming response rattled Permanent Secretaries and Ministers alike. Over 2,500 members have directly contacted their constituency MPs and over 130 MPs have signed an Early Day Motion supporting the union's case.

As a direct result of this pressure concessions have been won – but they are not enough. An acceptable agreement is not only entirely possible but well within the financial ability of

the Government. But PCS members need to increase the pressure to achieve this and given the absence of an acceptable agreement so far, the union has no option but to move towards a programme of industrial action to force the Governments hand.

Incapable of seeing any alternative to the pro-market ideology that has created economic chaos, this rudderless Government is allowing the most hawkish of the Permanent Secretaries to lead them into a dispute, rather than reach a negotiated settlement. This, before a general election, will lose them the votes of hundreds of thousands of civil servants and their families.

There is no justification for attacking the contractual rights of low-paid workers at a time when the rich and big business are evading tax to the tune of £130 billion a year. These proposals are aimed at clearing the path for a more generalised assault on jobs and conditions following the general election and form part of their grand plan to make workers pay for their economic crisis.

The Government shows staggering disloyalty to their own low-paid staff. They care even less about the communities that will be stripped of services through



job cuts and privatisation, with a potentially catastrophic impact on the most vulnerable and marginalised in society.

We know that united action brings results. By sticking together PCS secured a major agreement on job protection which has prevented compulsory redundancies and protected pension rights when they came under attack in 2005. Members must vote "yes" to both questions on the ballot paper. Now is the time to demonstrate yet again that campaigning works and action gets results. An agreed settlement is entirely possible and now is the time to increase the pressure to get the employer back to the negotiating table.

Vote YES for Industrial Action!

PCS National Elections 2010

Vote for the Democracy Alliance

You can help build a strong, democratic union that defends our pay, pensions and jobs by nominating the following candidates:

PRESIDENT

GODRICH Janice DWP - Glasgow South

DEPUTY/VICW-PRESIDENTS

BEAN Dave - HMRC Leicester Revenue

BOND Sue - PSG EHRC

McINALLY John - Avon

MORRIS Glenys - MoJ London Courts

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ALBERT Ian - DWP HQ London

FERGUSON Mary - DWP Tyneview Park

McFADDEN Dominic - HMRC Intelligence & Investigation

BAKER Mark - DfT/DCL/GO ETR Bristol & South West

GEDLING Cheryl - Scot Exec Central

McHUGH Kevin - HMRC Benton Park View

BROWN Alan - DWP Glasgow North

GREENWAY Kevin - MOJ

MERRY Lorna - HMRC Bucks & Oxon

BROWN Paula - HSE HSE

HALL Sam - DWP Highlands & Islands

MORRISON Chris - Com Sec Telford Aspire

CHILDS Eddie - MOJ

HOLBOURNE Zita - DTI ACAS National

REID Andy - HMRC Westminster Valuation

COMER Steve - HMRC South West

JAMIESON John - PSG Registers of Scotland

RICHARDS Dave - DWP West London

CONWAY Tony - Gov Off West Midlands General

KELLY Emily - Land Registry Lytham & Lancashire

STEEPLES Victoria - OFT

DENNIS Alan - MOD Central London

KHALIF Adam - DWP DWP HQ (London)

WESLEY Hector - HMRC London West Revenue

DERBYSHIRE Mike - MoJ Hampshire & Isle of Wight

LICENSE Neil - HMRC Yorkshire & North Lincs

WILLIAMS Paul - DfT/DCLG/GO ETR Nottingham Branch

DUNN Joy - Scot Exec Leith

LLOYD Marion - DfES Sheffield

WILLIAMS Rob - DWP DWP Bradford

Trade Unionist & Socialist Coalition

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition will be contesting seats in the coming general election on a clear anti-cuts and socialist programme. Founding supporters include Bob Crow general secretary of the RMT, Brian Caton general secretary of the POA, Chris Baugh assistant general secretary of the PCS and other leading officers of the PCS, all in a personal capacity.

All three establishment parties agree that it is working people who must pay the price of the economic crisis. We do not accept this and supporters of the coalition are determined to offer the widest possible working-class challenge in the coming general election.

Over the next few weeks, we want as many people as possible to become a launch sponsor of TUSC. Please sponsor it yourself and tell others that you think may be interested. To sponsor the coalition you just need to email electioncoalition@btinternet.com stating 'I wish to add my support to the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition election challenge'. Please provide your name, address, email address, phone number and which, if any, trade union or community organisation you are part of, along with details of any position you hold.

More details about how the Coalition has come into being can be found here: <http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/8673>.

The Socialist Party has a long and proud record of struggling to defend working-class people. We are involved in many campaigns throughout the UK. We support workers in industrial disputes. Socialist Party members played leading roles in important disputes in 2009, such as the successful Lindsey Oil Refinery strike in Yorkshire, the Visteon struggle in London and Belfast, and the dispute at Swansea Linamar car parts plant. We fight against student tuition fees and against privatisation of our services. We campaign for better pay, to stop council house sell-offs and for free education. We campaign against the war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and fight for a socialist world free of war and terror. We are part of the Campaign for a New Workers' Party, fighting for a mass party that can draw together socialists, trade unionists, community campaigners and others, to represent and fight for the interests of working-class people. At the same time, we point to the need to transform society completely; to fight for a socialist world run in the interests of the billions of ordinary people, not the billionaires. If you agree, fill out the form below and join us today!

Get involved I'd like to join the Socialist Party I'd like more information about the Socialist Party

Subscribe to the Socialist 12 issues £9 6 months £18 1 year £36

please make cheques payable to Socialist Publications Ltd

Name.....

Address..... Post Code.....

Email.....

Telephone.....

Send to: PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD, email join@socialistparty.org.uk or ring 0208 988 8777