

Scottish Socialist

Party

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS VOICE



unite for

DECENT & EQUAL PAY

The Scottish Socialist Party extends unqualified support and solidarity to the PCS members on strike for equal pay and decent pay rises across the Department for Transport.

For the SSP, equal pay is a matter of principle - whether that be regardless of gender, race or agency worked in. It is a disgrace that, for example, a DVLA Admin Officer is on £1,600 less than the departmental AVERAGE - not compared to the highest paid, but compared to the average.

It is a national disgrace that the New Labour government - who find the public funds to bail out ailing banks like Northern Rock, refuse the funding to underpin decent pay rises for hard-working civil servants or other public sector workers.

Their imposition of a 1.9% ceiling on pay rises - and their attempts to tie this to 3-year wage-cutting deals across the entire public sector - needs to be resisted and defeated by the maximum unity across the entire public sector workforce and their unions.

The Scottish Socialist Party has consistently fought shoulder-to-shoulder with PCS members in your battles to preserve pay levels, jobs and public services. We believe the DfT strike - followed by a week's overtime ban and work-to-rules in every agency are entirely justified. We also believe that this action will have a massive impact on the cost-cutting chiefs of the DfT and their political masters in Downing St. The SSP will do all within our powers to advertise your case across the wider trade union movement. And we will link this to the struggle for a society that puts people before profit, public services before the shareholders of privatised assets - a socialist society that takes the fabulous wealth of the banks, energy, oil, services and big industry into the hands of the public, to plan for decent pay and secure jobs, not the upheaval and uncertainty imposed by New Labour and the other pro-big business parties.

Stand united - you do not stand alone!

Join the party of working class solidarity and socialism - the SSP.



"This strike, overtime ban and work-to-rule takes place after all the agencies have offered below-inflation pay deals. **And they have all imposed their pay-cutting deals on us.**

The action is also part of the campaign for equal pay across the Dept for Transport. PCS want to return to departmental pay bargaining.

Alongside the industrial action PCS have set aside a £1million legal budget for pursuit of equal pay claims. These are in the extremely protracted legal system already, and members realise that legal challenges hold no cast iron guarantees of victory. The strike on Friday is timed to disrupt the change of car registration, and is the industrial part of our struggle to gain fairness in pay across the DfT - especially as 62% of DVLA workers are female.

The action will also severely hit driving tests; we expect none in Scotland on Friday. The one-day strike will be followed by a week's overtime ban across the whole DfT and individually tailored work-to-rules in each agency.

We are digging in for a long fight. The work-to-rules are designed to make sure there will be some form of action being taken in the Department over the next 6 months. Members are strong enough to see this struggle through - driven by the outrageous unfairness and inequality of the pay deals we face."

Willie Telfer, PCS assistant national group secretary, Dept for Transport

JOIN SSP 0141 429 8200 text 07899 732068 email ssp.glasgow@btconnect.com

Scottish Socialist Party - PCS members VOICE

“Also within the DfT, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency staff are balloting to escalate their action to a 3-day strike - in the country’s 4th emergency service!

This is also over pay, highlighting the disgusting situation where Coastguard Watches who are rated at Admin Assistant grades are being paid a few pence above the minimum wage - for jobs that require instant decisions that could effect people’s lives.

PCS don’t embark on strikes lightly. We have repeatedly asked for pay negotiations to be re-opened in all agen-

cies - for 2007 pay!! We’ve met with a closed door. The DfT chiefs have failed to carry out their legal duties of having an Equality Audit across the DfT specifically on pay. Our union has won the support of the Commission for Equality & Human Rights as we pursue a Judicial Review to force the DfT to carry out an Equality Audit. We will use all methods - legal, industrial and political, to win our fight for decent and equal pay.”

Willie Telfer, PCS DfT assistant national sec



New Labour is slashing 25,000 jobs in Revenue and Customs.

Then they try to lay the blame for the loss of 25 million people’s personal records on low paid staff who face these job cuts! And £billions of tax is unpaid by the mega-rich, money that could easily be used to guarantee a living wage for all civil servants AND expand the public services we deliver - AND add to investment in the likes of the NHS, education and transport.

New Labour is the party of pay cuts AND privatisation. And look at the results. Mayhem for the many, obscene wealth increases for the few. The National Audit Office Report on the privatisation of QinetiQ confirms what we already knew. The only people to gain are a handful of senior managers and big corporations. Since that public service was hived off to the private sector, the Carlyle Group of investors has seen its rate of return rocket by 112%. And Senior Managers have gained by 20,000%! Chief Executive, Sir John Chisholm, has seen his personal investment rise in value from £0.3m to £26m - mind-boggling figures, but a planet apart from the pathetic pay DWP members endure and the pay cuts we are having to strike back against.

Stand united and confident of public support for your strike. Help build links with other public sector workers - including council workers in Glasgow (Labour council) and Edinburgh (SNP council) battling against pay cuts of £3-6,000 and savage job cuts. But also consider joining the wider struggle for a society that removes the need for continual struggles to survive, to keep pay up with inflation, to protect services and people’s livelihoods. A society that puts people before profit; that harnesses the fabulous wealth of talent, natural resources, services and industry to the needs of society. A socialist society. An independent socialist Scotland. **Join the SSP as a trade unionist who puts people before profit and believes in unity, solidarity and socialism.**

DIFFERENT PLANETS

Gordon Brown has demanded public sector pay be restricted to increases below 2%, when inflation is between 4.4% and 4.8%.

Public sector pay rises are lagging behind the rest of the economy - with pay rises at their lowest since May 1998.

The threat of regional pay is also real; the Dept for Constitutional Affairs is trying to impose it.

The ongoing scandal of pay disparities of up to 25% for doing the same or similar work in different departments adds fuel to the anger of PCS members.

But that disparity is nothing compared to the chasm between the incomes of workers and bosses across society.

Bosses’ pay rose by 37% last year - to an average of £2,875,000 for the fatcats of the top 100 firms.

On average, they enjoy **66 times the wage of ‘their’ workers** if salaries alone are accounted for, rising to **99 times that of their staff** if share options are added in to the calculations!

This is obscene, to put it mildly. A century ago, the banker JP Morgan, himself no pauper, said no company should have a boss-to-worker income differential greater than 20:1. So today’s capitalists would bring blushes to even some of their own class’s money-grabbing predecessors.

STRIKE FOR DECENT, NATIONAL PAY INCREASES - AND JOIN THE SSP TO CHALLENGE THE OBSCENE INEQUALITY UNDER CAPITALISM.

Join the SSP - the party of public ownership, solidarity and socialism

name..... phone

address.....

.....email.....

contact: SSP, Suite 308, 93 Hope St, Glasgow G2 6LD 0141 221 7470

text 07899 732 068

email: ssp.glasgow@btconnect.com

pcsssp28Feb08