

Scottish Socialist Party



Party

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS VOICE



unite against

THE GREAT PAY DIVIDE

The Scottish Socialist Party offers unqualified support to all DWP strikers in your battle against horrendous, insulting pay cuts being imposed by senior management.

As PCS has rightly pointed out, none of the mainstream political parties challenges the New Labour government's prejudice and hostility to public services and public service workers. In contrast, the Scottish Socialist Party does - we have consistently sided with PCS and its members from the day we were formed in 1998.

Your cause is just, your demands are modest, and the bosses' response is despicable.

Senior Managers (those above Grade 6) had pay rises of 6.5% to 7.6% this year. Permanent Secretaries enjoyed rises of up to 9% - and a minimum bonus of £3,000.

Yet these people refuse to even enter meaningful talks with PCS. They refuse the modest union demand for a one year pay rise to match inflation and continued negotiations over 2008 and 2009 pay. They instead **IMPOSED** pay cuts, with their 3-year deal that means 2%, 0% and 1% for long-serving staff - and a miserly 24p above New Labour's poverty minimum wage for the lowest paid.

So the strike and overtime ban is entirely justified - to force these people into coughing up a decent pay rise.

And the money is there! Even within their own limited package, £38m is being wasted on flawed performance

bonuses instead of being used to tackle low pay. That takes no account of the pots of gold the government could access if they taxed big business and millionaires!

The SSP will continue to build support for all PCS members, and will fight within our unions for wider united action across the public sector.

These pay cuts pile the agony on top of the savage job cuts and increased workloads facing staff. **They are the result of a government that puts profit before people.**

That can squander £70billion on consultants in the public sector since Labour came to power; over £6billion on a bloody war for oil and empire. That upholds the whole system of ruthless exploitation for profit that is capitalism. **Unfortunately, the SNP also supports that system of profiteering.** They too have threatened civil servants' jobs. They have upped the ante in their recent budget announcement of public sector 'efficiency' targets not of 1.5% as they originally announced, but now 2%. That means thousands of jobs are under threat in Scotland. And instead of taxing big corporations MORE, the SNP want to tax them even LESS than Gordon Brown does.

PCS strikers can rely on the support of the Scottish Socialist Party - we put people before profit. Stand united - and join the wider struggle for an end to inequality. Join the SSP.



"DWP staff are near the bottom of the Civil Service Pay League. Members must support this action to end low pay in DWP and also support the National Campaign for a National Pay System. If teachers and nurses have a National Pay System why not civil servants? This award kicks long serving staff in the teeth. It's an offer meant to divide the membership. The vote for action shows members see through this. Even new staff getting more money are being hoodwinked. These staff should get a yearly increase for pay progression and another cost of living increase (this is what happened before). Adding progression increases to the yearly pay award for new staff allows management to give the impression the award is better than it actually is. The huge sums on pay bonuses is a joke. Staff have told management time after time in staff surveys that they despise performance pay. The money spent on bonuses could easily be used to top up basic pay and give every member an improved offer. Spending billion on consultants is a sick joke. Get active in the union to carry out the overtime ban. Force the government to end this low pay scandal - for a living wage."

Gerry McMahon, Glasgow DWP and convenor PCS Town Committee

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Scottish Socialist Party - PCS members VOICE

"Labour announced 104,000 job losses, claiming to make savings to the public purse. But the public Accounts Committee reckons at least £10billion of the £13billion in alleged savings are questionable.

One of the privatisations carried out is the courier service in HMRC - where 25 million people's data have been lost! They have no right to single out a low paid worker to blame - it is privatisation that puts profit before people's

confidentiality.

Pay remains central to PCS members' lives, because even if the fight to save jobs succeeds, people can't survive on the pay levels they now suffer. Huge numbers of staff themselves claim benefits, which is a condemnation of the government's record on pay."

John Jamieson, PCS NEC member



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) currently 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

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