

Scottish Socialist



Party

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS VOICE



stop redundancies, closures, privatisation **VOTE YES TO STRIKE BACK**

Scottish Socialist Party members in PCS appeal to fellow workers in HMRC to vote a resounding YES, YES in the ballot for action against relentless attacks on our jobs and conditions.

The union's call for a one-day strike on 31st January, followed by an overtime ban, is entirely justified. The government and HMRC bosses have refused to give any assurances whatsoever on compulsory redundancies or relocations. On the contrary, they have already slashed 13,000 jobs, alongside office closures - and reduced staff morale to an all-time low.

They refused to extend the previous rolling assurance on compulsory redundancies that expired last September. And in case we still doubted their brutal intentions on jobs, they wouldn't even concede a moratorium on compulsory redundancy notices whilst talks are held.

HMRC and the government are set on a crazed, vindictive course of 250 office closures, another 12,500 redundancies by 2011, and further outsourcing and privatisation - including the Security Guards at sites across the UK - including some that store seized

contraband! The real pirates are the New Labour privateers - out to hand over services to the rich for profit, and to hell with the consequences for people's jobs, public services, and public confidence in the security of data held on them.

A massive strike by 70,000 HMRC staff, followed by a total overtime ban to prevent the backlog being clawed back through increased workload, is the only language these people will listen to.

Strikes work! 700 Glasgow Social Care workers won re-grading in August - as did 260 Day Care workers last month, through tenacious, united action. So imagine the power of 70,000 taking action to stop New Labour's privatising, job-cutting, anti-union Tories. 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.

Vote YES, YES - confident of wider support.

"Revenue staff need assurances of no compulsory redundancies, no more outsourcing of our members' jobs, the reversal of the decision to privatise security staff in eleven sites, and an end to the job cuts. PCS members must vote YES not only to support the union negotiators but also to send a message to the authorities that we will not be scapegoats for deterioration of services arising from cuts - like the missing discs."

John Miller, Cumbernauld Taxes PCS rep



"Members in HMRC should vote YES to action to protect our jobs from the threat of compulsory redundancy and privatisation.

The recent 'missing disks' scandal is just one of the calamitous consequences of ill-thought privatisation. HMRC thought they could save money by using a private delivery company, DHL, without considering the effect this would have on security and public confidence. But whilst the head of HMRC, Paul Gray, was rewarded for 'falling on his sword' with another highly-paid non-job in Whitehall, the staff that are charged with carrying out a difficult job under the shadow of Gordon Brown's cuts agenda are threatened with the sack."

John Davidson, PCS East Kilbride Revenue Branch Vice-President (in a personal capacity)

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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 civil service staff endure and the pay cuts we are having to strike back against.

Stand united and confident of public support when you 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 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 TO WIN SECURE JOBS, WITH DECENT PAY - 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