

Scottish Socialist



Party

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS VOICE

UNITE & STRIKE

unite against jobs slaughter, poverty pay, office closures, privatisation & pension cuts

Scottish Socialist Party members in PCS fully support the PCS national executive committee's call for united industrial action across the entire civil service and other agencies - in defence of jobs, national pay, pension rights and against privatisation.

Members have had enough of New Labour-inspired attacks that make work levels unbearable, job insecurity a growing problem and pay disparities totally unacceptable. **A one-day civil service-wide strike (being considered for 31 Jan) could launch a sustained, united campaign.**

The government has launched a



concerted attack on public sector workers - including civil servants. Gordon Brown's demand for a 2% pay limit means pay cuts - inflation is nearly twice that. Brown's demand for annual budget cuts spells job losses (including compulsory redundancies), work overload, mounting stress and decimation of services.

But the same government can be defeated. Unity in action by 300,000 PCS members will put them on the run - especially as they face next year's elections. **Vote YES in the strike ballot.** Stop the jobs slaughter, poverty pay and privatisation! **Put people before profit!**

vote 'YES'!

"Our jobs, our terms and conditions, our colleagues are under attack.

The announcement of over 200 HMRC office closures; the loss of 12,500 jobs by 2008 and a further 12,500 by 2012; forced relocation of staff; the failed LEAN concept which means a million items of uncleared post; the new HR processes, grading reviews, whiteboards and individual monitoring - the list of attacks is endless.

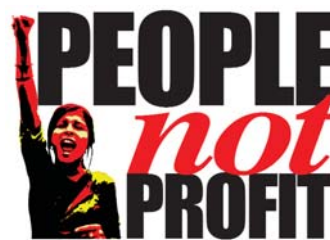
More and more pressure is placed on us daily as the quality of our jobs and service are undermined. How many taxpayers are now suffering the same fate as benefit claimants, finding themselves hanging on the phone, unable to speak to someone?

We now have the chance to stand together as the first compulsory redundancies are issued in DEFRA and the DTI. The industrial action ballot, for a strike across the civil service on 31 January, is long overdue.

Our demands are simple: no redundancies; no job losses; for a permanent and secure workforce; a service to be proud of and a valued workforce, treated as equals and not as clones expected to repeat the same management drivel just to get a wage rise or keep our jobs. **Vote YES in the forthcoming ballot."**

John Miller, PCS, Cumbernauld Revenue & Customs

compulsory redundancies in Defra and DTI. Who next?? VOTE 'YES' TO CIVIL SERVICE WIDE STRIKE



REASONS TO BE STRIKING, PART 1:

- 1 in 4 members earn below £15,340 - with pay inequalities of £3,500
- 36,000 jobs slashed already - compulsory redundancies - stress, over-work, collapsing services the consequences - nowhere else to go for jobs
- terms and conditions assaulted - targets, LEAN, workers treated as robots
- £2.5billion wasted on private consultants - some of them on £2,600 a day

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Scottish Socialist Party - civil service workers VOICE

REASONS TO BE STRIKING, PART 2:

"Almost every department is under siege. Cuts are pushing members to breaking point, with many suffering work related stress - and then many face disciplinary action and even the sack under draconian Attendance Management Policies.

Faced with this unrelenting attack the NEC had no alternative to balloting members on a programme of national action to defend jobs, pay and services. We need to deliver a huge YES vote."

Gerry McMahon, Glasgow DWP and PCS Scottish Committee

"Management are driven by government budget cuts, instead of focussing on the work that needs doing to provide decent public services. In the Pensions Service they are moving people round willy-nilly. They have had to start a recruitment campaign after getting rid of staff, because there are not enough to do the work. Why did we have to go through all that pain? Unless we get a YES vote for strike action the government will come in hard for us. We have lost too many jobs already. We need to stand up, united across the board, before they do any more damage."

Gordon Thomson, Glasgow Northgate Pensions

"In Registers of Scotland the introduction of new IT systems will result in cuts of over 400 staff in 4 years in an Agency of 1,500. It is in our Branch's interest to get a national agreement on no compulsory redundancies as a starting point for bargaining on our members' behalf."

John Jamieson, PCS Branch Secretary, Registers of Scotland



"The DVLA local office network has recently lost another 104 jobs, making a total of 507 out of an original workforce of 2,100. PCS has secured a 'no compulsory redundancy' pledge, but that will come under pressure. Members across the UK feel that management cannot rely on our goodwill any more - of coming in early and leaving late to provide public access. There is widespread support for the 31 January strike as cuts will lead to a poorer service and higher stress levels. We've already been cut to the bone; the marrow comes next."

Willie Telfer, Dept of Transport PCS Group Assistant Secretary

"The announcements in HMRC means devastation for the east coast. They want to centralise everything. Offices in Aberdeen, Dundee and Inverness face closure by 2010.

In the west, they want to lump together Glasgow, East Kilbride and Cumbernauld. These brutal plans would mean closure for offices in Coatbridge, Hamilton, Motherwell, Paisley, Stirling, Falkirk, Ayr, Irvine, Galashiels, Hawick and others - are we all supposed to get on our bikes and hike across the country for a job?

These figures of 7,500 more job losses by May 2008 PLUS another 12,500 by 2012 means ALL workers in HMRC are affected - NOT only those on short term contracts.

John Davison, East Kilbride HMRC

PEOPLE NOT PROFIT!

The Scottish Socialist Party has been building solidarity with PCS members forced to strike on pay, working conditions and jobs. We have been instrumental in proposing civil service-wide, united strike action.

Gordon Brown's announcement of further cuts to civil service budgets and a pay freeze adds salt to the wound - and explodes the baloney talked by some people that 'things can only get better' once Brown replaces Blair.

New Labour is New Labour is New Tories, regardless of who is at the helm.

New Labour is out to wreck the public sector with even more privatisation and offshoring of work.

New Labour is out to destroy workers' pension rights and keep the elderly on a poverty-line state pension.

New Labour retains the vicious anti-union laws that seek to stop solidarity between workers.

New Labour is up to its neck in sleaze and corruption, giving lordships for loans, defending the millionaires, not the millions.

In stark contrast, the SSP stands on the side of workers against the employers, for people not profit, for public services not private greed. We are Scotland's trade union party.

We have moved Bills in the Scottish parliament to tackle poverty, ill-health and inequality - demanding abolition of the Council Tax, scrapping of all prescription charges, for free, nutritious school meals for all kids at state schools.

We campaign for:

- £8 minimum wage for all over 16, no exemptions. Equal pay for women.
 - immediate state pension of at least £160
 - a shorter working week, without loss of pay
 - massive public investment in NHS, education, public transport, welfare - not in war and nuclear weapons
 - public ownership and democratic control of public services, transport, gas, electricity, telecomms, major industry, banks, N Sea oil
 - an independent, democratic socialist Scotland
- Join the SSP - the party of workers.**

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

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