

# ALL OUT TO DEFEND JOBS AND SERVICES

## Defend The Civil Service Compensation Scheme

**T**he decision by PCS members to take industrial action on the 8th and 9th of March and to impose a national overtime ban is a clear message that they will stick together to secure an acceptable settlement that defends their contractual rights under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

The government wants to tear up the contracts in order to push through job cuts and privatisation on the cheap. This is an effort to make civil servants and working people in general pay for the economic mess caused by the banks; it's as simple as that.

PCS's hard negotiating stance based on members' support has already delivered concessions but they do not give the level of protection needed; proposed changes to the scheme would mean:

- ▶ All civil service jobs under greater threat of redundancy.
- ▶ Services more likely to be privatised, with less protection for members.
- ▶ Members with longer service face the loss of entitlements of up to a third, potentially tens of thousands of pounds.



- ▶ Members over 50 losing rights to enhanced pensions.
- ▶ Less generous voluntary severance packages.

The government claim they want to save money on redundancy packages, but the answer is simple - don't make workers delivering vital services redundant: don't close 200 tax offices and get rid of 25,000 tax workers when uncollected, avoided and evaded tax is running at £130bn a year. Our communities need these services and they certainly need the jobs - it

is the economics of the madhouse to cut public sector jobs in the midst of a recession.

The government wants to be seen to be hard on civil servants "feather-bedded" terms and conditions. The truth is the overwhelming mass of civil servants are hard-working, lowly paid workers whose commitment to the communities in which they live and work and to which they deliver vital services should be treated with respect rather than denigrated by the government and the press.

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**L**abour is ideologically committed to attacking the public sector in order to allow big business an opportunity to use the recession to cut jobs and cherry-pick services for privatisation. At the same time as they go on about the “un-affordability” of public spending the government and the rest of the political establishment, including the press, tamely watch the bankers yet again wallow in obscene bonuses and profits after being bailed out by the taxpayer, i.e., working people.

PCS members have seen through this nonsense and by voting for strike action and an overtime ban are sending a clear message to the government that they will fight to defend their terms and conditions.

PCS is also taking legal action and a judicial review is to be heard in March. Whatever the courts say this dispute will be settled by members sticking together and making the two-day strike on 8th and 9th of

March, that opens the industrial action campaign, a huge success. Rallies will be held in every major town and city and PCS are asking for speakers from other unions to demonstrate their support.

PCS wants a negotiated settlement but only on the basis of an improved offer that defends members’ rights - if not, then the strike goes ahead and will be followed by more action and disruption throughout March.

The leadership of PCS, in which Socialist Party members play a key role has shown there is an alternative to bowing the knee in the face of the on-going assault on the public sector and working people generally. Campaigning works and action gets results.

By sticking together deals were secured on pensions and jobs. By sticking together in this campaign a settlement can be secured that defends members contracts and which can protect all members’ interests.

### 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](mailto: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.

See [www.tusc.org.uk](http://www.tusc.org.uk) for more info

**Check out our website for strike reports from picket lines across the country - [www.socialistparty.org.uk](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk)**

**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!

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