

PAY US WHAT YOU OWE US!

STRIKE TOGETHER TO SMASH THE PAY CAP!

FOR A £10/HR MINIMUM WAGE



 nationalshop
stewardsnetwork

Solidarity Forum: Scrap
the public sector pay
cap! Support the Royal
Mail & RMT strikes!

1pm-4pm Saturday October 21st
Birmingham and Midland Institute,
9 Margaret St, Birmingham B3 3BS
www.shopstewards.net

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

Text JOIN with your name &
postcode to 07761 818206
e: join@socialistparty.org.uk

t: 020 8988 8777

a: Socialist Party, PO Box
24697, London E11 1YD

t: @socialist_party

f: Socialist Party

Subscribe to the Socialist

Weekly
paper of the
Socialist
Party



[www.socialistparty.org.
uk/main/subscribe](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/main/subscribe)

**TUSC
AGAINST
CUTS**

**100%
ANTI-AUSTERITY**

The Socialist Party is part of
the Trade Unionist and Socialist
Coalition: tusc.org.uk

Join the Socialists

socialistparty.org.uk

There is a growing anger among the 5 million public sector workers that once again, despite the Tories' talk of lifting the pay cap, workers are being told to take another year of falling pay.

For years now public service workers have seen their pay held back by government in the name of austerity. First it was frozen, then capped to just 1%. This has resulted in public sector pay rising by just 4.4% between 2010 and 2016 while the cost of living rose by 22%.

Council and school workers have lost a staggering 21% of their take home pay since 2010. It means thousands of families are struggling.

It is a scandal that many of those who deliver public services and administer the benefits system are themselves reliant on claiming benefits and even resorting to food banks to make ends meet.

The government is now under real pressure to scrap the 1% cap on public sector wages. This is not because they have had an anatomy lesson and suddenly found out where their hearts are, but because they are feeling the anger of millions of workers at the continued grinding down of their living standards.

But we cannot rely on their 'good nature'! We must come out fighting and we must not delay.

Whilst the Tories are talking of lifting the cap they have shown with the announcements on police and prison officers' pay that left to their own devices their offer won't even match the current inflation rate, let alone make up for the years of losses.

But worse than that, government is refusing to even fund these pitiful increases. This will

inevitably mean that there would have to be more job cuts to pay for it.

There is no point in being given a pay rise on a Monday to be handed a redundancy notice on a Friday. We must demand that the entirety of the pay rises are fully funded from new money from central government.

The demand to "Pay us what you owe us" is gaining ground among public sector workers. A 5% claim has been lodged by Unison, Unite and the GMB on behalf of two million council workers; a 5% claim or £1,200 for all civil servants has been lodged by the PCS; 13 health unions have by-passed the pay review body and lodged a claim for 3.9% plus £800 directly to the government for one million health workers. Even the local government and health employers are calling for the pay cap to be lifted.

We call on the NEU (NUT/ATL) to now reject the pay review body proposals and for them now to submit a claim directly to the government for a minimum of 5% along with other local government workers.

DON'T DELAY START THE BALLOTS FOR ACTION NOW

It would in our view be a mistake to sit and wait and delay preparing for action. The best way of forcing the government into retreat is

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF
DISCUSSING & DEBATING
SOCIALIST IDEAS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

SOCIALISM 2017 1917 REVOLUTION

11 & 12 November,
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1H 0AL.

Tickets & info:
socialism2017.net, 020 8988 8777

JOIN US!

**If you agree, we need you to join the
Socialist Party and help build the
fight for a socialist world!
Details on the front**

not to simply wait for the autumn budget on 22 November, nor to wait for the health review body report later in the year and not to wait for the local government talks that are not due to take place until January.

Unions could use the example of the PCS, the civil service union, who have refused to wait and are carrying out a consultative ballot for strike action as part of the preparation for a national strike ballot, using the ballot results to build confidence and target areas where the union is less strong.

There are those at the top of the unions who, because of the new anti-union laws, have said it is not possible to win a national strike ballot again. The postal workers union CWU has shown that with a determined fight and campaign this new obstacle can be overcome – they won a national strike ballot with a 89% yes vote on a 74% turnout.

As part of the campaign to build confidence for the strike ballots we call on the TUC to name the day for a national demonstration that could bring all the workers together. However, if the TUC refuse then the fighting unions should call it.

This would build confidence in the call for a 24-hour public sector general strike as the next step and give workers confidence in fighting low pay and to get the Tories out!

The Tories are on the run and are having to retreat. With a determined fight not only can we win a genuine pay rise for millions of public sector workers but we can lay the basis for driving them from office.

