

Win the ballot for better Pay and Pensions

On 14th of February PCS launches a consultative ballot of PCS members over Pay, Pensions and the cost-of-living crisis.

PCS have submitted a claim for a 10% pay increase and an end to the Pension robbery where members are overpaying on average £500 a year in Pension contributions.

In the Civil Service and large parts of the public sector members have been subject to pay restraint for over 10 years after successive Governments have imposed pay freezes and below inflation rises. These have cut the standard of living for members drastically since the financial crisis in 2008. We cannot allow this to go on.

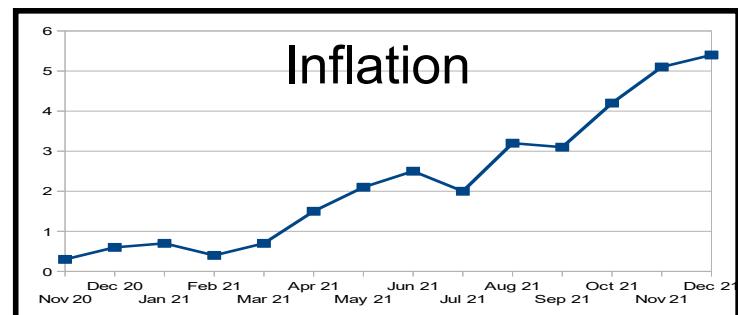
On top of that many of our poorest members have to claim Universal Credit and so will also have been

The money is there

Tax the Rich – The 10 richest people in Britain are worth £154 billion between them, a cool £28 billion more than in 2020.

Scrap Trident – CND has calculated the cost of replacing Britain's Trident missiles at £205 billion.

Corporation Tax - Amazon, eBay, Adobe, Google, Cisco, Facebook, Microsoft, and Apple avoided at least £1.5 billion in tax payments.



subject to the ending of the £20.00 a week uplift. This equates to a further household income cut of £1,040.00 to their household income. Our members need and deserve a real pay increase to prevent more of them falling into poverty.

The 10% pay claim PCS has made is the very least we should expect. Our members across PCS have kept society going throughout the pandemic. It is absolutely vital that members vote in the consultative ballot. We need to smash the 50% turn out in the ballot to send a strong message our members are prepared to fight and that we can get over the threshold in any statutory ballot which may follow.

If PCS members stand together we can win and make a real and abiding difference to our standard of living.

Please use your vote on 14th February and tell the Government we won't accept being short changed any longer.

Organising is our lifeblood

Organising is the life blood of any trade union. By growing and building, recruiting new members and encouraging more to become active, we massively increase the chances of our campaigns being successful.

Organising and campaigning are intrinsically linked. The chances of successfully campaigning without a large, vibrant, organised membership are remote. Without a good record of winning on big issues that matter, it would be very difficult to recruit and retain members.

In PCS DWP Group our Left Unity led leadership has an excellent record of winning for members, most recently the 6,000 staff recruited

Chancellor Rishi Sunak is estimated to be worth £200 million, and has a £7 million home.

His wife Akshata Murthy is the daughter of a billionaire.



and the Brook Street staff brought in house on permanent contracts. During the pandemic, we pressed for and won equipment for thousands of members to work from home, whilst ensuring we also won

protective policies for members both at home and in the office. DWP's move to late opening of Jobcentres in the winter months of 2020 was met with clear resistance from our leadership. Our move to a consultative ballot, flexing our industrial arm, blew that idea right out of the water. The Left Unity led leadership prevented late opening and won Work Coach empowerment because DWP saw PCS strong, and well organised.

When the employer is faced with the might of PCS, they sit up and listen - and that takes us right to the National Campaign.



Members will by now be aware that PCS is moving to a consultative ballot to test the mood for action on pay. The 2022 pay claim is for a 10% pay rise or £15 an hour and we are demanding an end to the theft of our pensions and the return of monies owed. Our members are suffering a real cost of living crisis and in the battle to win better, it is important that every one of us to do our part around organising. This is one battle we must win! We cannot afford to lose, literally!

We know that the energy price cap is set to rise by £693 from April and with an increasing emphasis on returning to the workplace with fuel costs of more than £1.40 per litre, members will be living below the breadline. Credit card debt will go up, as will interest rates, and living standards will go down.

Let's get started!

It would be nice to think that this could be solved by a Left Unity led negotiation team simply pointing out to the Cabinet Office that members are struggling. It would be great if their response to that would be 'well then, we'll need to give them a decent pay rise!', but the reality is that we have a Chancellor passionate about 'balancing the books', whose natural inclination is to spend nothing on civil service pay and to squander public money on a dodgy Test and Trace system and his mates' ineffective PPE. So we need to get out, get active and get organised!



We must work to get every member ready to vote in the consultative ballot as showing government the strength of our members' feeling is the key to us winning. Organising to get that pay rise is something we can all play our part in.

Every PCS member deserves a pay uplift having seen years of pay restraint. Ours being a truly diverse union we have Black members, disabled members, LGBT+ members denied progression, women members struggling on part time pay due to caring responsibilities, disproportionate numbers of those that sit within our equality strands on the bottom rung of the pay

ladder.

When we look at the figures, PCS women alone could clear the 50% voting threshold, so with all of those members within our equality strands putting a cross in the box, we could smash the 50% and put government under real pressure.

So, let's get started!

- If you've not already done so, sign up to PCS Digital and turn the contact box green with two forms of contact details – phone & email, and encourage friends to provide their contact details too.
- Check your ballot address is correct.
- Encourage non-members to join PCS.
- Speak to your branch reps and ask how you can get involved.
- Sign up to be a PCS Advocate
- Take part in the Call-Hub where you can ring members and make sure they have cast their vote.
- Talk about the campaign, about pay, pensions and the cost of living to colleagues.

They can find the money for their friends

- **£37 billion** paid out for Test and Trace, including £1,000 per day to Consultants
- **£4.7 billion** overspent on PPE compared to market prices
- NHS contracts worth billions handed to private companies

Join PCS Left Unity

All of these short, simple tasks that everyone can do will help build our membership and increase our chances of winning.

By joining Left Unity, socialist PCS members can work with a group of like-minded people who want the best for our members and want to do the organising work to make it happen. Get involved with the pay campaign, get involved with organising within your branch and get involved in Left Unity.

"We do need to see restraint in pay bargaining"

**Bank of
England
governor
Andrew
Bailey**



Salary £575,000

Click here to join Left Unity

**Monday 21st February
6pm**

**One month to
win the pay
and pensions
ballot**



Speakers include:

Mark Serwotka, PCS general secretary

Vicky Blake, UCU president

GMB St George's hospital worker

Fran Heathcote, PCS president

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87433881842>

Zoom meeting ID: 874 3388 1842