



PCS Left Unity

For a fighting, democratic PCS

A message from Left Unity

Pay and why our members must vote

All members covered by the rebalot should have received a ballot paper by now, and branches will be well underway with doing all they can to drive the vote out and smash the threshold. It would be a mistake to think that beating the threshold this time around is a foregone conclusion, we need to work for every vote.

Our original ballot mandate expires on 7th May and needs to be renewed now. By voting, you are sending a strong message to the government that they need to engage with us, equally, by not voting, under current law introduced by the Tories, you are giving the government a 'green light' not to engage and negotiate on pay. It is that simple.

Please note that the closing date for requesting a replacement ballot paper is 5pm on Wednesday 19 April. If anyone needs a duplicate, let us know straight away. The ballot closes on 9 May.

Our strategy of targeted action continues to be successful and hard-hitting, it is that which has got us this far, supported by national, all-member action, when it can have the maximum impact. Our next one-day strike being called for **28 April** must be another big show of strength.

Any offer at all in excess of what was imposed last year, is down to the campaign so far. Our strategy has made our campaign impossible to ignore, and it is this that we believe will get ministers to the negotiating table. Whilst our opponents may snipe, these are unavoidable truths.

We are currently in the strongest position we have been in for decades, and a high turnout in the rebalot will put further pressure on the Government. To not vote will let them off the hook and embolden them to continue to cut your pay.

Although the rebalot work got off to a strong start, there is some indication that activity has slowed down over Easter, so let's make every day count, and not waste the opportunities to make gains for members.

Has the recent action led to pay talks with the Government?

No pay offer has yet been made to us, nor are there any substantive pay discussions either formal or informal with the Government.

We have, however, forced three meetings regarding the pay remit guidance for this year, where we have been talking about the structure of that guidance and what it needs to contain. Of course, those sort of discussions are meaningless, in the absence of money on the table, and only set the framework for departmental pay talks.

We know other public sector unions were initially offered in the range of 4 to 5%, with some element of back dating. In relation to that, a few weeks ago, the Financial Times ran an article claiming that number 10 sources had been floating the idea of backdating pay to first of January this year.

Having said that, on Friday 14th April, the Cabinet Office published their remit guidance to departments and in a meeting held with unions immediately prior to the publication, made it clear that this would be 4.5%, with an extra 0.5% available for the lowest paid.

Whilst this is significantly more than last year, let's remember, similar offers have been rejected everywhere else, and the refusal to give our members additional money for last year makes this the worst offer in the public sector. Again this demonstrates that the government doesn't value its own workers, and won't pay up unless it has to.

In the discussions we have had with the Cabinet Office, we've emphasised that we need a solution to 2022 pay as well as this year's pay. Of course, we have also reminded them that the dispute is about more than pay, it also concerns job security, redundancy payments and the overpayment of our pension contributions.

So, there is some cause for optimism that they are moving, but there is also a suspicion that the Government are awaiting the result of our current ballot before deciding whether to make a new, better pay offer. Beating the 50% turnout threshold is essential to getting us the decent increase we all deserve. In response to every colleague that mutters 'what's the point in voting?' **This is the point.**

In conclusion, if we don't think we're worth as much as other public sector workers, don't bother to vote, however, if we think we deserve a meaningful increase in line with our demands and alongside the rest of the public sector, then we should vote to get into those talks. It really is in our own hands. Please vote, and ask every colleague to do the same.

The overwhelming message has to be, however you decide to vote, please fill in that ballot paper, post it and keep the pressure on to force the Government into negotiations.

NEC ELECTIONS START THURSDAY

If anyone is in any doubt that this will be a critical year, just look at what's at stake. The future of the most successful PCS campaign in decades depends on re-electing a leadership that knows what it is doing. We should never allow the leadership of PCS to fall into the hands of our opponents.

To demonstrate this you don't need to look much further than what is happening in the Scottish sector right now, where Broad Left Network supporters are trying to scupper a significant pay deal, and prevent members from receiving a settlement, with absolutely no strategy for what happens next if members reject the money.

Sniping from the sidelines, with vague slogans about wanting something different, never articulating what, calling for more unpaid action, and opposing a strategy of targeted action supported by a levy, for no good reason, all gives us a glimpse of what is at stake.

Last week a member of this faction, standing in a sham alliance with the Independent Left which is already showing signs of crumbling, told a PCS member of staff on a picket line that if they come to power, all Left Unity supporting staff will be out of a job soon. An interesting way to make your bid for power! PCS doesn't need these distractions or sectarianism.

Most members see through this, and realise that we need strong, experienced leadership to guide PCS through this significant period and give us the best chance of success.

For a serious campaign that wins for members, Vote for the Democracy Alliance.

Please vote for Democracy Alliance candidates for the NEC

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DWP
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Northumbria



VICE PRESIDENTS

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DWP Wirral



David Hannah

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View



National Executive members

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HMPO Northern



Grant Angela

DWP Wirral



Livingstone John

DWP Glasgow



Shafiq Mohammed

DWP Gtr Manchester



Baker Mark

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Harney Austin

MOJ Assoc Offices



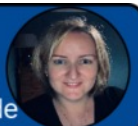
McGachey Liz

DWP Glasgow



Smith Colette

HMRC Merseyside



Brown Paula

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Hewitt Ros

MOJ HQ Branch



McGuinness Jas

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Thorley Steve

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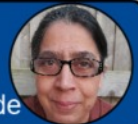
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Watts Karen

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Cox James

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Jackson Pete

DWP Birmingham
South



Morton Sarah

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Wesley Hector

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Dando Chris

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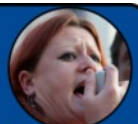
Jamieson John

Registers of Scotland



Owens Marianne

R&C Wales



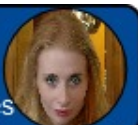
Williams Paul

DFT East Midlands



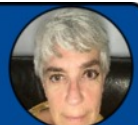
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Gantschuk Ginnette

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