

PCS People

PCS People is our members' magazine. Published three times a year, it has a lively mixture of news, features, competitions and members' stories reflecting your interests, experiences and concerns.

Issue 1 of 2024

[Read the latest issue](#) (opens as a PDF pop-up so you will need to enable pop-ups in your browser) of our members' magazine PCS People, which focuses on our national campaign and strike ballot. There are also features and reports on The Pensions Regulator strike, the DVSA dispute, the four-day week campaign and trade union rights.

[Our lead story on our national strike ballot](#) explains the importance of voting "yes" in the ballot to keep fighting for justice on pay, pensions and jobs.

Read the latest columns by our [general secretary Fran Heathcote](#) and our [acting president Martin Cavanagh](#) – both stress the importance of getting a high turnout in the ballot, both for enabling strike action and for sending the government a strong message about the determination of PCS members to fight for what you deserve.

There is also an article to explain what the PCS pay claim is and an update on the pensions court case.

There are lots of other great articles inside, including:

- A [profile of our new general secretary, Fran Heathcote](#), looking at her main priorities and hopes for the year ahead.
- [Defending our rights – past, present, and future](#) - on the rally in Cheltenham to mark the 40th anniversary of the trade union ban at GCHQ, and the impact of the Minimum Service Levels on our members.
- A [Me and My Job](#) interview with Gary Virgo, a driving examiner

[Open and read the latest issue.](#)

PCS People

Issue 1 • 2024

THIRN AND NOW: PCS led thousands marching in Cheltenham to mark the GCHQ union's anniversary, and to protest against a new anti-strike law

Vote 'yes' to keep fighting for justice on pay, pensions and jobs

- Members across UK civil service being balloted to support our pay claim demands - and are urged to vote before 13 May
- Industrial action and strikes levy strategy won gains last year and was again endorsed by members in recent consultation
- Pay levels still need to be seriously addressed - our new research shows just how staggering the decline has been over years

A new ballot for industrial action in the UK civil service is under way after we launched the next stage of our collective fight for decent pay, pensions justice, and job protection. The union's demands include an inflation-proofed pay rise in 2024/25, plus pay restoration to address the staggering decline in civil service pay over decades. A study of trends commissioned by PCS has shown how devastating the impact has been: civil service wages were 3% above average in the 1970s and 80s but are now 10% below average. The government has not met the demands in our claim, submitted in February. We must pile on the pressure now before the civil service pay result guidance is published and implemented.

We know that action works, after winning significant concessions last year. We know our strike levy was a game-changer in enabling us to take hard-hitting action that hurt the employer. The levy will therefore re-start in May. All members balloted are urged to return their postal vote before 13 May: a minimum 10% turnout is legally required for strike action.

PCS members will be asked to vote across 275 bargaining areas in the dispute. Members in the technical devolved sector will not be balloted because they reached a two-year deal on pay and job security last year. They will pay into the levy as they are still affected by the pensions injustice, which PCS and others are fighting in court.

See pages 2, 6 & 7 for more.

pcs Public and Commercial Services Union

pcs.org.uk

Got a story for our next issue?

Why not share your experiences, achievements and comments on how the union has helped you?

To contribute, share ideas for articles, submit letters or comment on the magazine email editor@pcs.org.uk

We hope you enjoy this issue and this magazine inspires you to [get involved in your union](#).

Not a member? [Join PCS online today](#).