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# **1,000 Border Force officers announce cross-Channel half-term strike**

New strike comes on the day 100,000 civil servants in 123 government departments walk out in what is the biggest civil service strike in a decade

1,000 Border Force officers in Dover, Calais, Coquelles and Dunkirk are to go on strike for four days during the half term period, the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union has announced.

News of the strike on February 17, 18, 19 and 20 comes as 100,000 civil servants in 123 government departments walk out in what is the biggest civil service strike in a decade.

Today's strike about pay, pensions, redundancy terms and job security affects, among others, those working for Border Force at airports and ports, those working as driving examiners and at National Highways, museums and art galleries, DVLA and DWP. The full list is [here](#).

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said: "Our members perform vital roles. We therefore expect our strikes today will have a massive impact on public services.

"And the strikes we have announced today in the Border Force will impact on people returning from their holidays during the half term period.

"For while the government brought untrained military personnel in to replace our highly-skilled and experienced officers in airports over Christmas, they won't be able to do that in France.

"The blame for these strikes lies firmly at the feet of ministers who are refusing to put any money on the table.

"They say they will talk about money for next year, but our members – who have been offered just a 2% rise at a time when inflation is around 10% – cannot afford

to wait for next year.

“Many civil servants are already having to choose between heating and eating, having to claim the benefits they themselves have to administer and they are having to go to foodbanks.

“Ministers should be ashamed at how they treat their own workforce and until they come to the table with money for our members, we will continue to call strike action, with tomorrow’s strike being a key part of what will be a continuous, sustained, targeted campaign.”