



Resources for reps

Support

Your branch can ask for support and advice at any time.

Contact your regional centre or the national organising department organising@pcs.org.uk in the first instance.

Visit the PCS website at pcs.org.uk/fightingfund for updates and advice.

Order Fighting Fund promotional leaflets and stickers from the PCS Print Unit: printu@pcs.org.uk



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The PCS Fighting Fund supports members taking targeted industrial action. This short guide gives the background to the Fighting Fund and some ideas about generating interest amongst members about raising money for the Fund.

Photo: Guy Bell 8826.05.17



Resources for reps

Supporting and promoting the Fighting Fund





The PCS Fighting Fund can help win campaigns on the issues that matter to our members

- As a result of the government's austerity programme, our members in both the public and private sector are facing attacks on their pay, jobs and terms and conditions.
- A key part of our campaign to oppose these cuts is our ability to fund sustained, targeted industrial action in certain areas. A strong Fighting Fund will help us to do this.
- Sustained industrial action can be hugely persuasive when convincing the employer to negotiate a fair deal.
- Recent action of this nature in the rail industry is one example.
- We have previously supported members taking action in the National Gallery, in the National Museums Wales and in the MoJ Shared Services areas.
- We are currently supporting members taking action in the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

Our strategy

- Sustained targeted industrial action has proved a successful tool in trade union disputes throughout history, but has to be funded to ensure members involved are not left in poverty.
- In recent consultation across the union, dozens of branches said they were willing to take targeted action.
- Our national disputes committee is now working with branches and reps to look at how this could work in practice.
- Encourage your colleagues to back the fighting fund and, if they haven't already, to join PCS.

Contributing to the Fighting Fund

- We are asking all members to make a voluntary donation to support striking members.
- Making a small donation could help make major gains for all members on pay, pensions, jobs and terms and conditions.
- We are asking members to contribute what they can afford.
- As little as £2 per month makes a difference. The more members that contribute, the greater our chances of winning our campaigns.
- Members can sign up to the fund online or download a hard copy form at pcs.org.uk/fightingfund.
- Donations are made through PayPal so it's safe and secure.
- Members can either make a one off donation or set up a regular monthly Direct Debit payment. Members will need their bank details to hand when completing the forms. The process takes about 2 minutes.

Raising awareness... and raising funds

There are lots of ways of promoting and supporting the Fighting Fund, using the opportunity of members' meetings and events to explain why the fund is important and asking members to make a small donation.

Use the examples of the support that we have given to members in the National Gallery, in the National Museums Wales, in MoJ Shared Services, and for the dispute that is currently ongoing with the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

Use the Fighting Fund to generate activity and interest amongst members and prospective members in your branch.

Promoting the Fighting Fund

- Start with your branch activists and committees. Get a pledge from your BEC, and indeed GEC, NEC and regional committee members, to sign up to the Fighting Fund themselves;
- All BEC members should be tasked with signing up 5 additional members to the Fund;
- Invite all other activists and Union Advocates to sign up to the Fighting Fund;
- Appoint members of the BEC to form a Fighting Fund Committee – invite advocates and use it as an opportunity to get members involved in the union;
- Make sure the Fighting Fund is a standing agenda item for every BEC and other committee;
- Badges and stickers ('I've signed up to the fighting fund') are available from the national print unit – hold 'Badge up' days and encourage other members to sign up;
- Hold prize draws for all members who have signed up to the Fighting Fund by a certain date;
- Promote the Fighting Fund through your branch newsletter and website;
- Send thank you updates, emails or cards for supporters;
- Run one-off collections at members meetings using collection buckets;
- Run events and fundraisers such as quiz nights or comedy and music evenings to raise money for the Fighting Fund;
- Raise funds by branch members working for the Workers Beer Company at music festivals and events, including Glastonbury;
- Run raffles for larger regional meeting or events.