

PAY UP!

THE PCS CAMPAIGN FOR A PAY RISE

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‘Just about managing?’

For years, successive governments have put a stranglehold on civil service and public sector pay. Our incomes have also come under attack from increased contributions to the pension scheme, withdrawing pay progression and increasing National Insurance.

Civil service pay has already fallen well behind inflation, behind average earnings and behind public sector earnings. Inflation is forecast to rise considerably between 2016 and 2021. Yet, the cruel and unnecessary 1% pay cap persists, placing a huge strain on many people and their families.

PCS is not prepared to let this situation stand. We are kicking off a powerful new pay campaign in 2017 to fight this unfairness on all fronts. The first phase of the campaign is designed to put pressure on Ministers to lift the 1% pay cap. We will:

- present compelling evidence the Treasury and Cabinet Office that civil service pay has fallen behind the private sector and the rest of the public sector
- lobby key politicians to lift the pay cap

Martin Ministry of Defence

“Before pay progression was scrapped I reached the max salary for my pay band (£20,883). This makes me what Theresa May calls a Jam (‘just about managing’), except I am not.

My last three pay awards (not rises) have been non-consolidated

and, with increases in pension contributions, I’ve seen my take-home pay reduce by £29 a month since October 2015.

I have cancelled my sports club membership. Next might be my home internet connection and I am looking into selling my car.”

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- organise pay day protests on 31 March outside workplaces.

To be successful, our campaign needs you. We want members to get involved and help build momentum through a variety of campaign and protest events.

We would also like you to tell us your own stories about the effect of the

pay cap on your life, for example:

- What have you had to do to make ends meet?
- If yours is a ‘just about managing family’, what does that mean in reality?
- What would an inflation-busting pay rise mean for you?

If you’d like your story to feature in our campaign (your real name won’t be used), please send it to: editor@pcs.org.uk

It’s time for us to come together, make a stand and let the Treasury know we’ve had enough. It’s time to Pay Up!



REAL LIVES REAL DAMAGE

Our members have shared their experiences with us

Rachel

Department for Work and Pensions

“I live on my own with my two children, one of whom has special needs. My monthly take-home pay is £769. I receive tax credits to tide me over every week for the children.

I've recently had to cut down a lot on my food shopping and hardly ever have days out with the children. I don't own a car and I don't think I could afford to run one.

Public transport costs have just gone up again, so I can't see my financial situation getting any better in the short term.”

Julie

Ministry of Defence

“In real terms, year on year, my take-home pay has decreased. It's not only the pay freeze – increases in pension payments increase and National Insurance have created a pay cut too.

I'm at the end of my tether and looking to leave. I enjoy solving

problems, I am at heart an 'enabler' with a customer service background but there are days when I just cry with frustration. Our reputation has been destroyed along with our pay and pensions and I will be shortly joining the 'march out' before my health starts to suffer.”

John

HMRC

“After deductions my take-home pay is £1,234. After paying bills I am usually left with about £180 a month. I have to do overtime, just to make ends meet.

I live by myself and have shared custody of my young daughter. There has been a huge squeeze on my finances lately and I've had to cut down on everything: going out, clothes, where I shop, how much I buy. I haven't been able to afford any kind of holiday for myself and my daughter.

I was signed off work by my GP because of stress and depression, much of which was brought on by my money worries and the fact that I was always working overtime.”



PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka declared:

“The combined effect of pay restraint, pension changes, the end of salary progression and increases in National Insurance, has created a perfect storm. Add into the mix the cost of living is set to rise this year, and doing nothing is just not an option.”

Share your experiences, email: editor@pcs.org.uk

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