



FOR A FRESH START IN PCS

Due to an administrative error, the elections for DWP Group President and Group Executive Committee (GEC) are being re-run. These elections are really important. Make sure you vote.

We should all be proud to be members of PCS. It is our Union which protects and improves our terms and conditions and which speaks up for us at work. We deserve the best leadership possible. PCS Independent Left can provide that leadership. If you agree with what we say then please vote for us.

Who we are

We are a group of independent activists. Some are in political organisations and some are not. All of our candidates are AOs and EOs and we all have DWP jobs as well as Union posts. Unlike the current GEC, none of our candidates have spent years on 100% facility time. That is a recipe for becoming out of touch with members. We understand members' problems because we experience them ourselves. You may not have heard of all of us but members in our branches know who we are and can see all the hard work we do for the Union.

How we are different

The present leadership has lost touch with members. We would take member's views seriously and take forward the issues of importance to you. We would not hold back members who want to take action over office closures, compulsory transfer into Contact Centre Directorate or any other local or national disputes.

Full Time Officer's (FTOs) pay

This was discussed at the PCS Conference on 20th May 2010. If there was any issue that perfectly illustrated the difference between the current GEC and ourselves, it's this. We do not think it is an appropriate use of your subs to pay the General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary £87,656 pa and £75,032 pa respectively, regardless of who the post holders are. Left Unity voted to reject PCS policy of having FTOs earnings more closely related to that of the vast majority of PCS members. The SEO max in the national area is £36,500 and in Inner London is £40,400. It is inappropriate for leading officials of our Union to be pocketing twice as much as this.

For effective industrial action

National one and two day strikes, spaced out by months of inactivity, are not going to stop the cuts planned in DWP and are not going to force the government to pay us what we deserve. As well as national strike action we are in favour of overtime bans and selective action, where key groups of workers can be taken out for longer periods, supported financially by a national levy of all members.

We would end secret negotiations with the employer. If we are going to ask members to take action in defence of their jobs then they need to be kept fully apprised of all the issues.

End the two tier workforce – make all Fixed Term Appointments (FTAs) permanent

By signing up to the reserved rights pension deal in late 2005, Left Unity created a two tier workforce. Staff that started after July 2007 are in the NUVOS pension scheme. These members are currently excluded from the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) and would receive the statutory minimum payment if they are made redundant. Any settlement to the current dispute must see these staff brought back into the CSCS.

Of course a lot of these new staff are FTAs. When management started recruiting these new staff Independent Left supporters proposed having Union meetings in every office in DWP to ask members what they wanted to do about the casualisation of the workforce. This was opposed by the current GEC. Our aim is to make every FTA permanent but to achieve this it is inevitable we will need to take action.

A new type of leadership

We don't claim to have a monopoly on good ideas. We won't claim victories where they don't exist. The current GEC claim to have abolished the 'must give a warning policy' when sickness warnings and sackings continue unabated. We won't claim a major breakthrough on national pay and then admit 6 months later not a single member has received a single penny increase in their pay. We will tell you the truth, even if that is uncomfortable. We will argue for what is necessary. We will put an end to spin. We will have an honest, open relationship with members and their representatives. We will involve you in the decision making processes of DWP Group of PCS.

If you agree with us please consider copying this leaflet to other PCS members.

VOTE FOR INDEPENDENT LEFT

President: Annette Wright

GEC: Trevor Andrews	Simon Cockroft	Rosie Huzzard	John Puttock
Nick Bird	Nick Diamantis	Bev Laidlaw	Theresa Rafferty
Tom Bishell	Mervyn Ellis	Jackie Lederer	Jenny Richardson
Marjorie Browne	Martin Hawkins	John Mahoney	George Thompson
Sue Catten	Christine Hulme	Charlie McDonald	Annette Wright

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT?

If you are tired of the spin and same old strategy of Left Unit. If you are opposed to deals that offer new members worse terms on entry. You should join the **Independent Left** – a new socialist voice for members in the Union. To find out more simply fill in this form and send to:

10 Maitland Avenue
Chorlton
Manchester
M21 7WB

Name: _____

Address: _____

Branch: _____

Email: _____

Visit our website at www.pcsindependentleft.co.uk