

Timeline of strike action and events in PCS national campaign

Our strategy of targeted strikes has enabled us to call more successful industrial action than at any other time in our union's history, with targeted strike action involving thousands of members. We have also had three national strike days involving tens of thousands of members. Our strike action has been brilliantly supported and workers have flocked to join the union.

Follow the timeline to see how we got here and who has been involved since our first national ballot in November 2022.

10 November: Campaign update, talks with Cabinet Office

Our successful campaign of industrial action won an increased pay remit, £1500 cost-of-living payment and guarantees on redundancy terms. It also forced the Cabinet Office into a [series of talks with PCS on pay and staffing](#).

10 November: Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency members to be balloted for strike action

[Members are being balloted for strike action](#) in a dispute over an attempt by management to erode their terms and conditions.

1 November 2023: Pensions Regulator members vote for further strikes

[PCS members working for The Pensions Regulator have voted overwhelmingly in favour of taking more strike action.](#)

5 September: PCS members in The Pensions Regulator begin strike action

[PCS members who work for The Pensions Regulator in Brighton have today \(5 September\) begun a two-week strike for fair pay.](#)

Over 250 PCS members working for The Pensions Regulator (TPR) are on strike between **5 and 18 September** because their employer is refusing to pay the government's revised pay remit.

1 September: Members vote overwhelmingly to back union's campaign strategy

[90% of members who voted agreed](#) with the plan on how to continue the campaign.

Members have massively endorsed the union's industrial strategy by 90.3% to 9.7% on a 47% turnout. This will send a strong message to the government and employers that while the concessions we have won are significant, they are not enough and our campaign continues.

[28 July: Strike threats force employers to pay £1,500 cost-of-living sum](#)

[PCS members in two areas have already successfully called targeted strike action](#) to force their employers to pay the £1,500 lump sum recommended in the UK Government's pay concessions.

[5 June 2023: Significant concessions from government in national dispute](#)

[Our NEC met following a meeting on 2 June with Jeremy Quin MP, the minister for the Cabinet Office to discuss the ongoing dispute in the UK civil service and related areas.](#)

He announced significant concessions by the government relating to pay, redundancy terms and job security.

The key elements of the government's proposal are:

- A non-consolidated lump sum of £1,500 in recognition of cost-of-living pressures in 2022/23. The payment will be made by individual employers over the next few weeks following meetings with the union.
- An increase in the headline pay remit figure from 2% to 4.5%, with an extra 0.5% for the lowest paid, for 2023/24.
- A commitment to further talks on low pay and greater coherence of pay within the civil service.
- The government will not take any action or make any changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme until 2025, which in effect will be after the next general election.
- A commitment to further talks on strengthening redundancy avoidance measures through the jobs protocols, taking account of the changed world of work following the Covid-19 pandemic and the acceleration of use of new technology in that changed world.

[2 June: PCS meets with the Cabinet Office to discuss the dispute](#)

PCS General Secretary Mark Serwotka meets with Jeremy Quin MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, along with the General Secretary of Prospect and the Assistant General Secretary of FDA, to discuss our ongoing dispute.

The minister states that the government is prepared to allow departments to pay an additional payment of £1,500 to staff in recognition of the pressures that they have felt during the 2022/23 pay year. The minister confirmed that this followed the representations made by the trade unions.

26 May: PCS invited to talks with Cabinet Office on national dispute

PCS approached by the Cabinet Office with an invitation to meet and discuss all the issues in the UK civil service and related areas dispute.

24 May: Members vote to push on with strikes campaign and win

PCS members vote at out annual delegate conference to press on with their campaign of combining targeted and all-member strike action to keep pressure on the government and ultimately win justice on pay, pensions and job security.

18 May: Conference to discuss escalating strike action

PCS annual delegate conference to discuss calling further targeted and all-member action to build further pressure on the government to accede to our reasonable demands on pay, pensions and job security.

10 May: PCS strike rebalot results: Massive yes vote for strikes

PCS members in the civil service and related areas again vote in remarkable numbers for industrial action.

10 May: HMRC strike off to a positive start

HMRC members working in Personal Taxation Operations on Employer Services in East Kilbride and Benton Park View in Newcastle start 20 days of strike action.

5 May: Scottish sector members vote to accept improved pay offer

The pay award delivers an increase of at least £2,200 for all staff earning £36,000 or less, as well as other improvements and guarantees.

[28 April: PCS strikes cause disruption across civil service](#)

[Tens of thousands of PCS members are out in force on hundreds of picket lines across the UK on our third national strike day of the year.](#)

[25 April: PCS DWP survey shows desperate in-work poverty](#)

One in five workers at the Department for Work and Pensions claim in-work benefits, [a shock PCS poll uncovered](#)

[3 April: Massive picket lines launch first day of April's targeted strike action](#)

[PCS members and supporters out in force across the UK, making their voices heard and getting their message across.](#)

Picket lines held at HM Passport Office sites in every country of the UK at the start of their 5-week strike, as well as at the British Library, Government Digital Services in London and the Animal and Plant Health Agency in Carlisle.

[31 March: From 3 April thousands of PCS members will be taking targeted industrial action](#)

[The latest round of targeted action](#) involves members in the Passport Office, National Highways, British Library, British Museum, the Animal and Plant Health Agency, DVSA and Government Digital Service. They will be joined by 700 DVLA call centre workers on April 11 and 12.

[27 March: PCS calls all-out strike on 28 April](#)

[More than 130,000 PCS members](#) across the civil service and public sector will strike on **28 April** in our latest one-day action alongside a month of walkouts to increase the pressure on the government on pay, pensions and job security.

[20 March: PCS announces more strikes in 5 government departments as union ramps up pressure on ministers](#)

[PCS General Secretary Mark Serwotka warns ministers](#) that even more strikes will follow unless they engage with the union and put money on the table

[20 March: New PCS civil service ballots now open](#)

[Fresh PCS strike ballots opened of 124,125 members](#) in 186 employers across the civil service and public sector so members can continue to fight for fair pay,

pensions justice and job security as part of our national campaign.

Our current 6-month legal mandate for strike action in 124 groups expires on 6 May, so to continue our industrial action campaign our national executive committee has agreed we need to ballot members again. [The new postal ballots](#) ran from **20 March** until **9 May 2023**.

[17 March: Results of latest PCS ballots announced](#)

[All 4 of the areas balloted](#) in the latest PCS industrial action ballots returned **yes** votes for action as part of our national campaign on pay, pensions, changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme and jobs.

[15 March: PCS strikers out in great numbers](#)

Across the UK, [PCS members were out on strike](#) in their tens of thousands in our biggest strike for years to send a powerful message to the government that they have had enough of being poorly treated on pay, pensions and job security.

[7 March: Debate on civil service pay gets heated](#)

[MPs were frustrated by the government's](#) lack of movement regarding our ongoing dispute and demanded ministers negotiate urgently.

[28 February: 33,000 more members to join national dispute](#)

[100% of areas balloted, including HMRC, returned huge yes votes](#) and crossed the 50% turnout threshold for action as part of our national campaign on pay, pensions, changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme and jobs following a number of re-ballots.

PCS members in 9 more employers were now able to take strike action and members in 4 groups also voted to take action short of strike.

[21 February: Ofsted members to take 12 days of action in March](#)

[PCS Ofsted members](#) in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester and Nottingham took action from March 6 to 29.

[20 February: Talks continue with Cabinet Office but more action needed](#)

A meeting between PCS and Cabinet Office officials took place on 15 February to discuss our national dispute on pay, pensions, job security and redundancy terms.

We made it clear that we were in dispute over the four issues and that all of them would need to be addressed with PCS.

Ministers had previously said that they would not negotiate on our demands on 2022 pay. We made it clear that their position was not going to hold. Unless a resolution was found to address the cost-of-living crisis and the scandalously below inflation pay award for 2022, there would be no resolution to the dispute.

[17 February: Strong start to latest Border Force action](#)

There was solid support for the start of a 4-day strike by Border Force officers in Dover, Calais, Coquelles and Dunkirk.

[16 February: British Museum strikers 'stronger by the day'](#)

The British Museum is heavily disrupted by a week-long PCS strike as part of our targeted strike action.

[15 February: Huge support for DWP strikes](#)

DWP members in Stockport, Bolton and Liverpool walk out.

[12 February: Mass support for targeted industrial action at DVLA](#)

[PCS members working for DVLA](#) on Output Services Group (OSG) started 5 days of strike action.

[9 February: As public sector pay offers increase PCS urges Sunak to change stance](#)

PCS General Secretary Mark Serwotka writes to prime minister Rishi Sunak seeking a meeting to resolve the union's long-running dispute over pay, pensions, redundancy terms and job security.

[7 February: PCS announces escalation of strike action programme](#)

PCS announces an escalation of our targeted strike action programme and a one-day strike of 100,000 members in the civil service and public sector on Budget Day, **15 March**.

[2 February: PCS announces fresh ballots of 4 employers in Northern Ireland](#)

[PCS to run ballots from 9 February in Northern Ireland](#) of members in the Home Office, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Information Commissioner's Office and Heritage Lottery Fund, to ask them to join our civil service strike action.



Great picket and rally in Doncaster



Outside the Senedd in Cardiff

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

[1 February Thousands out in largest civil service strike for years](#)

[Tens of thousands of PCS members joined strike action](#), with hundreds of picket lines across the country as the largest civil service strike for over a decade caused disruption to services.

[11 January: One day all-member strike action called for 1 February](#)

The PCS national executive committee agrees to call a one-day strike on **1 February** of all members in employers where the turnout passed the 50% threshold required by law for action in our ballot last year.

[6 January: national campaign continues with 5-day DVLA strike](#)

Our rolling programme of targeted strike action goes on as the government plans legislation to prevent future strikes.

Our national campaign of strike action continues as members working for the DVLA in Swansea and Birmingham begin a five-day strike on 9 January.

[3 January 2023: campaign continues with strikes at RPA, DWP, DVSA and National Highways](#)

3 to 6 January, 9 to 13 January: Rural Payments Agency - call-centre workers in Workington, Newcastle and Caernarfon, all other workers in Workington and Newcastle.

3 to 7 January: DWP - Doncaster Crossgate House (back of house and front-facing staff), Toxteth Jobcentre, Liverpool Duke Street Jobcentre, Liverpool City Jobcentre.

4 to 10 January: DVSA - London, South East, South Wales, South West, Aberystwyth, Basingstoke, Cardigan and Yeovil.

6 and 7 January: National Highways - traffic officer service employees, road traffic officers and control room operators: East Midlands and Eastern.

[23 to 26 December, 28 to 31 December 2022: Border Force strikes take place](#)

23 to 26 December, 28 to 31 December 2022: Border Force action at Port of Newhaven; Passport control at London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Glasgow airports, causes considerable disruption.

[19 to 31 December: DWP members in Doncaster and Liverpool out](#)

DWP - Doncaster Crossgate House (back of house), Toxteth Jobcentre, Liverpool Duke Street Jobcentre, Liverpool City Jobcentre.

[13 December: Rural Payments Agency, DVSA and National Highways members first to take strategic action](#)

13 to 16 December, 19 to 23 December: Rural Payments Agency call-centre workers in Workington, Newcastle and Caernarfon.

13 to 18 December: DVSA - Scotland and Northern.

16 to 17 December: National Highways - traffic officer service employees, road traffic officers and control room operators - North West, Yorkshire and Humber and North East.

[10 November 2022: PCS strike ballot results: Massive yes vote for strikes](#)

The [legal turnout threshold of 50% was achieved in 124 areas](#) allowing for major industrial action across the civil service and public sector.