

25 August 2023

Whitehall cleaners, security guards and support staff announce five-day strike

PCS members to take action at Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, Department for Business & Trade and Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

Cleaners, security guards and support staff working in three major Whitehall departments are to strike for five days after being offered a below-inflation pay rise.

The Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union members employed by outsourced contractor ISS are angry to have been offered just a 3.5% rise when inflation is running at 6.8%.

Last year ISS made a profit of £73m and ten board members received almost £1m between them.

Almost PCS 100 members at the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, Department for Business & Trade and Department for Science, Innovation & Technology will take action from September 4 to 8.

They are also calling for an end to outsourcing and for ISS to formally recognise the union.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said: "It's obscene that ISS can afford to pay board members £988,000 – a rise of 8.9% from last year – yet claim they can't afford to pay cleaners a fair rise.

"The government should end outsourcing and bring all contracts back in-house to prevent companies like ISS exploiting taxpayers to make huge profits from the hard work of our members."

ends

