

4 October 2023

PCS in the media round-up: September 2023

Highlights in our media coverage for September were our reactions to the government's small boats policy and Lord Frost's criticism of civil servants, as well as strikes in OCS and The Pensions Regulator.

Others included the announcement and subsequent cancellation of a strike in the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime and discussions on AI chatbots being trialed in the civil service.

We also attracted huge interest around general secretary Mark Serwotka's impending retirement as general secretary of the union.

Appearing at his last Trades Union Congress as general secretary, he was in-demand for media interviews about his years at the helm of the union and his opinions of the Labour leadership.

During the course of three days, he carried out interviews with the [Morning Star](#), [PoliticsJoe](#), [the Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [Tribune](#), [LabourList](#) and others. He was also interviewed live on [LBC](#) and [Sky News](#).

Overall, we had **799** stories in the media in September.

Comparative advertising spend was **£3.7m** (how much money we would have to spend on advertising to receive the same level of editorial coverage).

Some of the other more prominent stories in September included:

Civil Service World: [Civil servants back union's strike-pause plan](#)

i paper: [Channel small boat crossings set to surge in heatwave as Border Force union warns of 'unacceptable pressure'](#)

BBC News: [Mayor's policing office staff to strike over pay](#)

Liverpool Echo: [Court set to be closed for days as security staff walk out in row over pay](#)

Manchester Evening News: [Greater Manchester courts close as security staff strike over 'being paid peanuts'](#)

Civil Service World: [Unions slam Frost's 'scandalous' attack on 'net-zero fanatic' civil servants](#)

The Law Society Gazette: [Court closures revealed as security staff strike](#)

Independent: [Pensions regulator staff announce further strike action over pay](#)

BBC: [AI chatbots do work of civil servants in productivity trial](#)

Morning Star: [Courts disrupted as security guards stage last day of strike action over pay](#)