

8 February 2024

PCS in the media round-up: January 2024

Media highlights during January were our 40th anniversary commemorations of the union ban at GCHQ, the retirement of Mark Serwotka and a strike by members working for Fujitsu.

In addition to the many local newspapers and websites that covered the march and rally in Cheltenham on 27 January, [BBC Points West previewed the GCHQ event](#) and sent a crew to cover it on the day, [interviewing Mark Serwotka](#) about the GCHQ union ban and the importance of using these commemorations to challenge minimum service levels.

Ahead of the event, [Tribune published Fran Heathcote's column](#) while *Civil Service World* printed a piece by ['Alan', a current GCHQ employee](#). On the morning of the event we [featured on ITV](#) and [the MailOnline](#).

Elsewhere, the *Mirror's* Ros Wynne-Jones [wrote her Real Britain column all about the event](#), featuring interviews with two of the original workers who refused to give up their trade union membership.

Other highlights include [Fran's first interview as general secretary in Civil Service World](#) and various [reports \(including on the BBC\) on a strike by members in Fujitsu](#).

Overall, we had **1,090 stories** in the media in January.

Comparative advertising spend was **£5.68m** (how much money we would have to spend on advertising to receive the same level of editorial coverage).

Mark Serwotka's retirement featured some reflective interviews:

Personnel Today: [Mark Serwotka: why the union fight will continue](#)

Mirror: [EXCLUSIVE: PCS union leader Mark Serwotka given heart transplant after catching virus while washing dog](#)

Left Foot Forward: [Retiring PCS union leader on 'inevitable' future strikes and finding hope in international co-operation](#)

Civil Service World: [PCS 'in best place it has been for years', says departing chief Mark Serwotka](#)

[BBC Wales recorded a half hour podcast with Mark](#)

Other prominent stories in January:

Sky News: [Civil servants accuse former ministers of 'cowardly' blame game over Post Office scandal](#)

Morning Star: [Unions launch legal action against government's anti-strike legislation](#)

Civil Service World: [PCS to launch judicial review over Border Force anti-strike law](#)

MailOnline: [Driving test examiners to strike over 'flawed plan' to clear backlog](#)

i: [Home Office insiders accuse ministers of 'smoke and mirrors' over asylum backlog](#)

Financial Planning Today: [TPR staff strike over pay dispute](#)

Guardian: [Unions condemn plan to make civil servants ignore ECHR Rwanda rulings](#)

Guardian: [Border Force mental health absences rose 45% as Channel deaths increased](#)

Telegraph: [Drivers to strike over 'safety risks', with one left with broken jaw after attack](#)

Liverpool Echo: [National Museums Liverpool staff set to walk-out over cost of living payment row](#)