

28<sup>th</sup> September 2007

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**Allan MacKenzie**  
*Group President*

To all Group Members

### **PCS National Campaign—Autumn 2007**

In the next couple of weeks we shall all be receiving a ballot paper from PCS regarding the next stage of the national campaign in support of public services. My reason for writing is to ask and encourage you to vote YES and support the campaign.

The national campaign is about protecting jobs across the whole of the civil service as well as opposing the current government policy to restrict public sector pay rises to below the level of inflation. Why is this important to us in the FC? Since 2004 we have been receiving 3.5% as an overall pay award, and from this an average of about 2% has been used to pay the cost of progression within the payscales. This leaves about 1.5% to cover the cost of inflation. This year the rate of inflation is higher than it has been for several years and if we are again offered a similar 3.5% pay raise this will mean that we will have fallen behind inflation by over 8% in four years.

Earlier this year we had a very poor response to calls for action in support of the campaign. However the national campaign enshrines the demand of pay increases which at least keep pace with the cost of living. The GEC therefore believes that we must now give campaign our full support both to protect our pay and to help our fellow PCS members across the Civil Service.

A further demand of the campaign is for adequate resources to enable us to deliver good quality public services. The FC's budget has been flat-lined with zero inflation for the past decade, and we are now facing the possibility of a real budget cuts over the next three years. Can we really sustain this if the outcome for our members is an increase in workloads and all the associated problems that this brings with it? I believe that members would wish to see the FC receive adequate funding, and for ourselves to this aim.

I have asked all of our Branches to organise meetings over the next few weeks so that you can find out more about, and take an active part in discussing, this very important campaign—I would therefore urge you to attend and put across your views to your BEC.

Finally I am pleased to report that the PCS campaign has now been taken up by the TUC so we should now be able to look forward to the other public sector unions starting to stand up and be counted. Please; support this campaign, attend your branch meeting, and vote YES in the forthcoming ballot.

Best wishes

**Allan MacKenzie**