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To all Group Members

Ballot Result

On Wednesday of this week the outcome of the consultative ballot was announced. Some 67.6% of the turnout voted in favour of the NEC proposals for further national strike action, combined with action at Group level where appropriate, if that becomes necessary to achieve a settlement in the national Civil Service/NDPB dispute.

While the ballot was taking place, senior union officers have been involved in a series of discussions with ministers and senior government officials about beginning negotiations with the aim of bringing our national dispute to a fair resolution.

The Cabinet Office has now stated it is willing to enter into meaningful talks with PCS with the aim of reaching an agreed settlement by the end of the year. This is a significant step forward in our national campaign.

Now that the Cabinet Office has agreed to formal talks, the National Executive Committee has decided not to call further national industrial action so that every effort can be made to reach agreement.

I very much hope that these negotiations do in fact bring this dispute to a satisfactory conclusion and that we can avoid any escalation in industrial action. We must continue to build support from other unions, ensure that we recruit new members and build on local activity.

For further information please visit the PCS web site www.pcs.org.uk

Allan MacKenzie.