



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Via email

13 May 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Proposed cuts to public services**

I am writing following media coverage, particularly in the Daily Mail, that you plan to cut one-in-six civil servants. This will be met with complete dismay by them, and by the wider public who rely on the services that they provide.

I urge you to think again and not follow through on these proposals.

Prospect represents highly skilled civil servants, many of whom have better paid comparators in the private sector. We also represent roles across the private sector and quite frankly would not expect to see those employers behave in the way the government is towards its civil servants.

Given our members are in demand there is a real risk to government delivery from losing their vital expertise. They are key to what the government wants to do, whether that is levelling up or recovering from the pandemic.

Our experience across private and public sectors shows that it is these experts and specialists that modern organisations need to invest in to remain efficient and relevant in the future.

Through Brexit and then the pandemic, we have never been more reliant in peace time on our civil service. The public rightly expect responsive public services, whether that is in respect of public health, defence, or prosecuting the people who pollute our environment, as well as thousands of other services.

To be clear: without these civil servants you will not be able to effectively help our country recover from the pandemic, nor tackle the cost-of-living crisis. It will also not be possible to achieve your levelling up ambitions.

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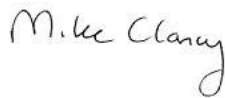
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As Brexit and then the pandemic hit, ministers repeatedly found that government had too little capacity to deal with major challenges, due to the big cuts in public services that have been made since 2010. These proposals risk doubling down on this mistake, and ultimately costing government more in the long run.

Our members have also experienced significant real terms pay cuts since 2010. In recent days, you have stated you also now wish to reduce their redundancy terms. Now you want to further impact them by cutting their jobs.

Prime Minister, we are a union known for constructive engagement and finding solutions through dialogue, but we cannot go on like this. You are risking the future of the very civil service who saw the country through the pandemic crisis and who you relied on. Your combination of real terms pay cuts, attempts to reduce redundancy terms, and now huge job reductions will destroy morale which has already been adversely impacted. It's time to change course and work with your civil servants, rather than being in opposition to them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Clancy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Clancy

General Secretary Prospect union