

Media Key messages for Public Services pickets

General – for reps and FTOs

Reminders

You do not have to speak to the media if you do not want to.

If there is a Prospect full time officer at your picket they are our preferred spokesperson.

Any problems please contact Prospect Press Officer Graham Moonie on 07889337719.

You are speaking as a union member taking action, not as an employee.

Top lines

We don't want to strike but we have been left with no choice due to more than a decade of real terms pay cuts.

Our members provide vital services, but they are being singled out by a government intent on leaving its own workers at the back of the pay queue.

Prospect members in the public sector have suffered up to a 26% real-terms pay cut since 2010.

The effective operation of the civil service and its agencies are at risk as we lose vital skills to the private sector and organisations are unable to recruit the skilled staff they need.

Members voted overwhelmingly for industrial action with 80% voting in favour of strike action and 92% in favour of action short of a strike on an average of 72% turnout.

Inflation is in double digits and has been for months so we are falling further and further behind.

Private sector pay growth at 7.3% with civil service pay increases capped at 3%

Q&A

Why are you taking strike action?

We've suffered real terms pay cuts for more than a decade. With civil service pay increases capped at 2-3% Inflation running at more than 10% was the last straw. The government have also said they want to cut jobs and at the same time have threatened to cut our redundancy terms. We have had enough.

What are you asking for?

We want them to get around the table with us, with the authority to offer is a fair pay rise that addresses the huge increase in the cost of living. And we want them to stop trying to cut our redundancy terms and give us assurances on job cuts.

What would be enough money?

It's not for me to start negotiating on air but we need the government to get around the table with us and start negotiating in good faith.

Your Experience

If you have any personal stories or experience or know someone with a story to tell about hardship, or if your team struggles to keep up with the workload sometimes because of recruitment issues then that is a very powerful message.

Do – remain factual and talk about yourself and your experience

Don't – attack your employer, get into party politics