**Public Services Strike**

**Template PR for local papers**

**Prospect members at [EMPLOYER] in [AREA] to strike on 10 May**

Members of Prospect union working at [EMPLOYER] in [AREA] are to take a second day of strike action on 10 May in a dispute over pay, job losses and redundancy terms. This follows a previous strike on [15 March].

In addition to the strike action, workers have been taking action short of a strike continuously since 16 March, including working to rule and an overtime ban. This is the largest industrial action Prospect has taken in more than a decade.

[There will be a picket line at ADDRESS from TIME until TIME on 10 May.]

[EMPLOYER] is an important employer in [AREA] and performs a vital public service providing [SHORT DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU DO].

This second day of strike action follows the refusal of the government to enter negotiations to resolve the current pay and conditions dispute, having instead imposed a pay control of 4.5% which will further erode living standards, with inflation running at 10.1%. This leaves Civil Servants with some of the worst pay settlements in the public sector this year.

Members’ pay has declined by up to 26% since 2010 in real terms.

Prospect represents tens of thousands of specialist, technical, professional, managerial and scientific staff in the Civil Service. Members work at a wide range of employers, including the Met Office, Health and Safety Executive, Trinity House, Intellectual Property Office, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England and UK Research and Innovation. They are among around 40 organisations where action will be taking place.

**Mike Clancy, General Secretary of Prospect, said:**

“Our members in [AREA/EMPLOYER] provide a vital service to the country, but they are being singled out by a government intent on leaving its own workers at the back of the pay queue.

“Why is this government treating its employees worse than anyone else in the public sector?

“For months we have been pressing ministers to put forward a serious offer that recognises the cost-of-living crisis facing our members. But instead of coming to the negotiating table, the government has published a pay control of 4.5% for 2023-24 - with nothing on the table for last year.

“This industrial action was entirely avoidable, but the failure by government to make a comparable offer to elsewhere in the public sector has made it inevitable.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

* In the ballot for industrial action across Prospect’s public service membership, which took place earlier this year:
	+ 80% of members overall voted in favour of strike action
	+ 92% of members voted in favour of action short of a strike
* Overall turnout was 72%, well over the legal threshold of 50%