



# PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT

## For a fighting, democratic PCS union DWP Group Elections

### How to Vote

If you have provided PCS with a personal e-mail address an email will be sent to you with instructions on how to vote online. Any members that haven't will receive a ballot paper by post as usual. However you vote, please do vote.

### Why Vote for us?

The test for any trade union is defending and increasing its members...

- Pay
- Job Security
- Safety
- Terms and Conditions
- Pensions
- Industrial Strength

**Not to sell off some of the earliest trade union victories** such as the weekend in favour of a pay increase that doesn't even begin to make up the real loss that we've had over the past decade.

**Independent Left members opposed the employee-deal:** It was throwing our terms and conditions on the bonfire for scraps from the table in terms of pay.

Inflation currently stands at just under 3%. **In DWP the positive effect of any pay-rise received by ripping-up terms and conditions has already been wiped-out** for many members. Especially longer standing, loyal members near the max who were on legacy contracts.

**Our main leverage isn't in our negotiators nor our reps but that our true strength comes from our membership. Membership that has dwindled to a historic low of 59% in the DWP.**

**We need to be confident in our ability to win. We need to be confident in our ability to win through action, not shy away from it in case we might lose a ballot.**

**Confidence has been worn away by the current leadership unwilling to allow action over some of the most draconian conditions in our contact and benefit centres. Confidence that could be rebuilt on strike action and a victory in such disputes.**

#### Vote Independent Left

##### President:

Bev LAIDLAW

##### Vice-Presidents:

Leon SEARLE

##### Assistant Secretaries:

Charlie McDONALD

Declan POWER

George THOMPSON

##### Organiser:

Chris MARKS

##### Journal Editor:

Nick DIAMANTIS

##### Treasurer:

Jason LANSBURY

##### GEC:

Tom BISHELL

Nick DIAMANTIS

Bev LAIDLAW

Jason LANSBURY

Chris MARKS

Charlie McDONALD

Robin NICHOLL

Jenny POLLARD

Declan POWER

George THOMPSON

Leon SEARLE



Visit our website at [www.pcsindependentleft.com](http://www.pcsindependentleft.com)

## Staffing

The DWP GEC says it is campaigning on staffing – although many members may not be aware of the campaign! **IL members elected to the GEC will argue for a serious staffing campaign where PCS make demands for the number of staff DWP required to offer a service to benefit claimants.** Staffing level across the department are already at breaking point and there is no sign of positive changes of the horizon

## Office Closures

**DWP Sheffield ran a significant campaign to keep Eastern Avenue Jobcentre open to the public which included over 40 days of strike action. DWP Devon also led strike action against the closure of the Plymouth Benefit Centre. The campaigns were run by local members and led by the local reps backed by branch officers.**

We stood alongside local politicians, DPAC, Unemployed Workers Centre and the local union movements to defend these workplaces and key services. IL members on the GEC argued that the local action needed the support of a ballot across the whole of the DWP to pressurise the department, the majority of the GEC voted against this proposal.

## Employee Deal

**We do not believe that there is a service requirement for DWP to be operating until 8pm.** DWP need to proof the need for the work being done at that time of day, they will be unable to do so and therefore PCS should refuse to agree an extension of operating hours. Working until 8pm will not solve the chronic staffing issue and will in reality increase pressure on staff.

## Our Candidates



From leading strikes in Plymouth and Sheffield against office closures to organising the defeat of the attack on Check-off as elected regional organisers, our candidates have years of experience as rank-and-file, workplace reps. As Assistant Group Secretary Bev Laidlaw secured 7 ½ years back-pay for fraud officers.



As rank-and-file, workplace activists we think the union can do better in DWP

If you agree – Vote **PCS INDEPENDENT LEFT**



Interested in joining the Independent Left? Please email [Leftopp@gmail.com](mailto:Leftopp@gmail.com)