

30. Nov. 2011

*Picket in front
of Rolls Buildg.*

THREE BIG PENSION LIES

Millions of workers in the UK are about to take strike action to defend their pensions. PCS members will walk out on 30 November with colleagues from 20 other unions.

Before the last national strike in June government ministers tried to turn public and private sector workers against each other.

This leaflet and our 'Fair pensions for all' booklet aim to cut through the lies and give you the facts.



Public and Commercial Services Union | pcs.org.uk

LIE 3

“WE CAN'T AFFORD YOUR PENSIONS”

Coalition ministers claim they can't afford to pay public sector pensions. It's not true.

In 2007 the government renegotiated pensions with PCS and other unions representing state employees.

Last year the National Audit Office found the new arrangement was “on course to deliver savings and stabilise pension costs” and already “reduces costs to taxpayers by 14%”.

Even the Hutton report – commissioned by the government specifically to consider pension provision as a “barrier” to privatisation – shows costs are gradually falling as a percentage of national wealth (GDP).

Hutton firmly rejected the claim that civil servants enjoy ‘gold-plated’ pensions. In fact the report said the average public sector pension is £5,600 a year – less than half the minimum wage for a 40 hour week.

The payouts are not more generous than similar schemes for workers in the private sector. If more retired public servants have to claim means-tested benefits like pension credit, council

tax benefit, and housing benefit it will cost billions.

On the morning of the 30 June strike BBC presenter Evan Davis said about the Hutton report and public sector pensions: “I can only find that graph which shows the costs falling in terms of GDP burden. It has been repeated so often that it's unaffordable, it's out of control. I just can't see it in his report.”

What you can do

- Visit the updated PCS pensions calculator at pcs.org.uk/pension to see what the changes will mean to you
- Make sure all your colleagues are in the union
- Sign the ‘Fair pensions for all’ petition pcs.org.uk/fairpensions
- Volunteer to help on strike day
- Go to rallies and meetings in support of the action
- Join in local anti-cuts campaigns
- Read the economic alternative to the cuts at pcs.org.uk/alternative

5097



Public and Commercial Services Union | pcs.org.uk