

A375/26 DfE North West and North Wales (501012)

Conference notes that a Labour leadership challenge is now brewing in the aftermath of Labour's local election catastrophe. Whether Burnham, Rayner, Streeting or some other leader, this weak government will not deliver reforms to benefit our members unless forced to do so by a campaign. This much has been proved by endlessly protracted and inconclusive talks with the Cabinet Office.

Conference also notes the NEU decision to ballot from October 2026 on pay, a lack of funding and a threat to jobs and workloads. Public sector pay is likely to fall victim to Labour austerity and inflation, and to come with little or no additional funding. Conference believes that there is a real opportunity to build and launch a national campaign, and to coordinate with fellow public sector unions.

Conference therefore instructs the NEC to:

- Submit our national claim on pay and related issues both nationally and at delegated level immediately following the close of Conference.
- Urgently put in place plans to prepare the union for a major national campaign covering all outstanding matters of dispute with the government.
- To reach out through the TUC, TUCG and bilaterally to all public sector unions to discuss the possibility of coordinated pressure on the government including by coordinated strike action.
- prepare detailed guidance for delegated negotiators to ensure an empty chair is not left in delegated areas if formal talks proceed
- to work through groups to hold members meetings right across the membership to explain and gain support for our claim and the necessary campaign to win
- to meet urgently with those areas who are not covered by the pay remit e.g. commercial sector, devolved areas etc, to ensure maximum co-ordination on pay throughout PCS
- to instruct groups to identify areas of potential paid targeted action to support national action

Conference recognises that significant parts of PCS are already in dispute and have balloted or are being balloted on key industrial issues. To maximise the pressure on the government, Conference instructs the NEC to convene a meeting of these areas to assist in coordination of these fights.

Conference reaffirms support for motion A383 of 2025, refreshed to include:

- All key pay demands: a fully consolidated 10%, pay restoration, progression, £18ph minimum wage, London weighting, scales that rise with inflation et al.
- All key terms and condition demands: upwards harmonisation on sick pay, 35 days' annual leave, 4 day week, a job security agreement et al.

- The greatest insourcing for a generation, that Labour promised
- “Our Work, Our Way” campaign material to show members what maximum control over their working lives could look like, and why we should fight hard for it.

Conference instructs the NEC to move to a national strike ballot, disaggregated or otherwise, by the end of September if insufficient progress is made in talks. The NEC is instructed to convene regularly a lay-led organising forum of nominated reps from each delegated area, to ensure branches, groups and sectors are adequately supported as we prepare for a major campaign.