



Public and  
Commercial  
Services Union

# Members' Briefing REVENUE & CUSTOMS GROUP

To: All Members

cc: Branch Secretaries, Group Executive Committee, Equality Chairs, VOAC (for info)

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## 'CIVIL SERVICE 2025'

### HMRC submits response to Tories 'job cuts' demand

- **Government required departments to provide assessment of cuts impact by 1 July**
  - **Cabinet Office reneges on 'full consultation' assurance**
    - **HMRC submits broad plans to Cabinet Office**
  - **PCS preparing to fight attacks on jobs, pay and pensions**
    - **Get your details up-to-date**
    - **Hear more about the PCS campaign**

The initial phase of the Tory government's plans to slash 91,000 civil service jobs in the next 3 years, which they're euphemistically calling "Civil Service 2025", required all departments to submit an assessment of the impact of 20%, 30% and 40% cuts in staffing. Departments were only given a month to produce the assessment, and the deadline for providing that broad assessment was 1 July 2022.

#### **Cabinet Office breaks 'full consultation' promise**

PCS had previously been assured by the Cabinet Office, that trade unions would be fully consulted, where the various departments' response to the government's 'impact assessment' demand was concerned. That assurance proved worthless when, in the days before the 1 July deadline, the Cabinet Office told the PCS national negotiators that unions wouldn't now be receiving the details of departmental responses.

If the government won't honour its promises of consultation this early in the process, when proposals are at a very broad stage; what are the odds they'll open-up their plans to scrutiny, when it comes to anything up to 27,600 HMRC jobs being axed?

#### **What happens next?**

HMRC's response to the government's commission will now go to the 'Value for Money Committee', chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (currently Nadhim Zahawi, but the way things are going, who knows how long that will last).

The committee will then look at all of the departmental submissions, before deciding on the level of job cuts to be inflicted on each department. What is absolutely clear is, whatever response HMRC has provided, it's in the gift of the Chancellor's committee to inflict even greater cuts.

We should also remember that the government is demanding a total of 91,000 job cuts across the civil service, and if by far the two largest departments (DWP and HMRC) both opted to cut the bare minimum demanded by the government (20%), that would still leave the government some 60,000 short of its target. This means that, whatever's gone into the response by HMRC, the Chancellor's committee might well be forced to look to the bigger departments for greater cuts, just so they can make their arbitrary 91,000 figure.

### **Join the fight for jobs, pensions and pay**

First and foremost, if you've read this briefing and you aren't yet a member of PCS, then you should [join today](#). PCS is your trade union, and we'll be leading the fight to defend civil service jobs, pay, pensions, and the redundancy scheme.

If you're already a member, as we prepare for the campaign ahead, it's vital that we're able to contact you. With a membership ballot already planned for this coming Autumn, and HMRC applying restrictions on the content of union circulars distributed using the department's email system, you need to stay in touch with your union.

If you haven't already done so, let PCS have your personal/non-work email address and your mobile phone number. We'll only use it to keep you informed about PCS matters. You can update your details securely online by registering for [PCS Digital](#) or by contacting your local PCS rep, and asking them to enter your details securely on the PCS Organising App.

If you haven't yet registered for PCS Digital, it's really easy to do:

1. First go to the [PCS Digital registration page](#)
2. Enter your surname, forename, PCS membership number and your personal email address (your membership number begins with the letter "P" followed by seven numbers; it can be found on any email or correspondence from PCS, or you can just ask your PCS branch secretary)
3. Click "Sign Up" and you're done!

### **Hear more about the PCS campaign**

By now you'll have seen from the recent PCS Members' Briefing (MB/036/22), that we've arranged for a membership meeting, which will be held via Zoom at 6:00pm on 12 July 2022. You should join the meeting and listen to PCS General Secretary Mark Serwotka, who will update you on the campaign for jobs, pay and pensions.

[The link to the Zoom meeting is here](#) (Meeting ID: 820 975 6402 and Passcode: PA6LK9)

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