

Fylde Central Benefits and Services Branch

An Introduction Pack



Public and
Commercial
Services Union

How Does PCS Work?

1. PCS is the fastest growing union in the country
2. PCS is the 5th biggest union in the country
3. PCS has over 300,000 members
4. PCS has members in all Government Departments and in the Private Sector
5. PCS has 10,000 Union Reps
6. PCS has its HQ in London and 9 Regional Offices
7. PCS has 95,000 members in the DWP
8. PCS has 2,000 Union Reps in the DWP
9. PCS negotiates on pay and terms of employment
10. PCS represents members on personal case
11. PCS provides services to members

10 reasons to join PCS

You probably face many issues in the workplace. These are uncertain times. Issues such as relocation, redundancy, pay and pensions can affect your working life at any time.

The fact is on your own there's not much you can do to affect your working conditions. Joining PCS means that you won't be on your own. Join PCS and you will have a voice in your workplace and you will be able to draw on all the advice and legal support PCS has on offer.

1. For a strong voice. Joining PCS is about standing up for one another. On your own you have very little power to influence decisions made by management. Uniting with your colleagues in the union means you can make a difference.
2. To make things better at work. Unions enable workers to organise around key improvements they want to make to their workplace. Together we can challenge the strength of our employers and improve our working lives.
3. To fight for better pay and terms and conditions. Our terms and conditions were not handed to us by management. We have fought hard to win them. Today we are going all out to protect what we already have as well as pushing for improvements where we think they can be made.
4. For decent public services in our communities. Decent public services need dedicated staff to deliver them. Stand with us to protect the services we provide.
5. To get the respect we deserve. No member should have to accept abuse, threats or physical assault as part of their job. Together we can stand up to bullies and protect each other.
6. For advice and support to ensure you are treated fairly at work. Your employer intends to be fair and responsible, but it's possible that from time to time problems may arise. This is where access to advice and support from your union can pay off.
7. To combat discrimination and prejudice at work. We are encouraging and supporting members in under-represented groups to play a full and active role in our structures.
8. You will have the opportunity to elect your representatives. You can choose who you feel would best represent your interests or become a representative yourself. PCS is a democratic union and you can get involved and help decide union policy.
9. It's unwise to wait. Even the most self-reliant person can have an accident or get sick, which can result in disciplinary action. Join us after encountering a problem at work and we may not be able to help you.
10. It's easy. Complete the form at the back of this pack and return it to 7233 Norcross

For legal advice or other services

PCS membership brings a comprehensive range of services and benefits, which can save members more than the cost of their subscription. Services that are available exclusively to members include:

- Free legal advice from PCS solicitors
- A union law scheme offering a free interview with a local solicitor on any personal or domestic matter
- An accident claim scheme covering members and their families where PCS solicitors pursue claims for compensation
- Huge discounts at a wide range of shops, hotels and places to visit
- A benevolent fund to help members experiencing financial hardship
 - A personal accident plan
 - Unsecured personal loans
 - Home, motor and travel insurance
 - Financial planning
 - Mortgages.

Why People Don't Join Unions

There follows a list of the most frequent arguments presented against membership of PCS, together with explanation as to why these objections are incorrect:

Unions Are Too Political

Never apologise for the union being political. Of course the union is political. It is politicians who decide our pay and conditions of service and we need to exert political influence on them. PCS nationally has recently set up a very successful parliamentary group of MP's to work on our behalf. They are doing a great job and our political influence is growing all the time. But PCS is non-party political. PCS is not affiliated to any political party. PCS does not pay any money to any political party. The PCS parliamentary group includes MP's from all political parties.

The Union Is Ineffective

Individuals need look no further than the success of local personal cases (keeping the personal details confidential of course) and the continued success of the union to secure all the agreements with the employer. Without PCS' representation and protection staff would be subjected to conditions determined by their employer alone.

I Can Look After Myself

Many developments in the civil and public services and in the commercial sector where PCS represents many members are posing serious threats to staff. Non-members have absolutely no say in these matters; their views and fears will not be represented to the employer. Only as a member of PCS can their opinions be considered and presented with expertise and authority.

I Get the Same Benefits Anyway

Not true, only members are consulted and informed. In the event of a problem, non-members have no access to the expert professional advice and representation provided by PCS.

Subscriptions

Most of our members pay their subs through their employer. Your employer collects these payments by deduction from your salary - view the details on your pay slip.

Subscriptions are based on your gross annual salary.

Gross Annual Salary	Monthly Subscription
£10,000	£5.00
£12,000	£6.00
£14,000	£7.00
£18,000	£9.00
£20,000	£10.00

- 6 months free membership for casual staff.
- From 1 January 2007 the maximum is £11.28. The precise calculation is gross annual salary x 0.6% divided by 12 (don't worry - your employer will calculate this for you).

About Fylde Central benefits and Services Branch

Who the Fylde Central Benefits and Services Branch?

The branch covers members of PCS in all grades in the Department for Work and Pensions and certain groups of members in the private sectors areas, excluding EDS/Capita

We have 3,200+ Members throughout these Sites

- ✓ Norcross
- ✓ Warbreck house
- ✓ Beacon road
- ✓ Peel Park
- ✓ Heywood Stores
- ✓ Faraday Way

Contacts

PCS HQ:	Tel. No: 0207 924 2727
PCS DWP Group	Tel. No: 0113 200 5300
PCS North West Regional office:	Tel. No: 0151 231 6120

Warbreck House Office:	C122A, Lobby D, Warbreck House Tel. No: 01253 331186
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Norcross Office:	Room 7233, Block 7, Norcross Tel. No: 01253 333484
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Peel Park:	Room 22, PP12, Phase 1, Peel Park Tel. No: 01253 688322
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If you wish to join PCS fill in attached form and return to:

Mick Daniels, Room 7233 Norcross.

PCS Union membership application form



Please complete all questions in block capitals

Title Mr Mrs Ms Miss

Forename(s)

Surname

Contact tel. no

E-mail

D.O.B.

Payroll No.

N.I.No.

Employment details

Please remember to include name of building, room number etc. if applicable

Name of Employer

Grade

Work address

Postcode

Union subscriptions from your pay, declaration and data protection

I am applying for membership of PCS and I declare that I will observe the terms and rules of its constitution. I authorise my employer to deduct from my pay each week/month amounts that may be fixed by PCS from time to time in respect of trade union subscriptions. Please start deductions immediately and pay the amounts to PCS. I note this agreement may be cancelled by one months notice in writing to my employer.

Signature

Date

DATA PROTECTION: The PCS holds personal data about all members. This data is used to process your membership, provide you with information, to enable us to carry out membership activities and to provide us with management and statistical information. If you do not wish to receive specific mailings from approved PCS providers carrying the PCS+ logo please tick here

HQ Use only

Subs rate

weekly/monthly

PLEASE DO NOT DETACH

This section of the application form covers information that PCS treats as confidential. It is only used for PCS purposes.

Membership Details and Ethnic Monitoring This information is for statistical purposes. Please tick

Full Time Part time Fixed term contract Casual contract

Which of these categories describes you:

Asian: Bangladeshi Asian: Indian Asian: Pakistani Asian: Other Black African
 Black Caribbean Black Other Chinese Mixed Ethnic Background White

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person? Yes

Home Address

Postcode

Ballot Address (Your preferred address for ballot papers, diary, PCS View, etc.)

Home

Work

Death Benefit Nominee Please provide details

PCS pays a death benefit of £1,100 to your nominee.

Title Mr Mrs Ms Miss

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Relationship of nominee to you

For Branch Use Only

Branch Code

Workplace Code

Employer Code

Pay Source Code

Please return this form to:

PCS Fylde Central Benefits and Services Branch, Room 7233, Norcross.