

PCS says:

SAVE OUR JOBCENTRES

OPPOSE REDUNDANCIES AND DWP OFFICE CLOSURES

DWP has announced plans to close 103 offices, including 74 jobcentres, across the UK. This will mean worse customer service for the people who rely on DWP's services and hundreds of redundancies for many of the PCS members who work in these offices.

Save our jobcentres

Closing jobcentres mean that claimants will be forced to travel further, at their own cost, with a higher risk of sanctions if they are late. Ministers have not considered the impact on carers or people with disabilities.

Most of the proposed jobcentre closures are in areas of high unemployment and social deprivation. So much for the Tories' claim to govern for the whole country!

DWP's own research shows claimants want face to face support to seek work, to complete complex claim forms and to claim what they are entitled to, not have to ring expensive pay numbers instead.

Oppose redundancies and DWP office closures

30,000 jobs have been cut from DWP in five years. DWP cannot cope with the volumes of work now. Closing more offices and making staff redundant will only make matters worse. DWP should be recruiting more staff not slashing jobs.

DWP plan to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds making staff redundant in offices that are closing, while spending even more recruiting new staff in offices they are keeping open. What a waste of taxpayers' money!



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PCS: ORGANISING THE FIGHTBACK

Uniting staff and claimants

PCS reps have been organising public meetings and been leafleting jobcentres involving community activists, MPs, Disabled People Against the Cuts and other groups. Communities and trade unions need to unite to stop cuts, defend public services and fight for a fairer social security system.

Challenging the government

PCS has worked with MPs, Scottish MSPs and Welsh AMs to secure debates in Westminster and the Scottish Parliament opposing the closures. MPs from all the parties, including some Tory MPs, have criticised the planned closures and argued to keep offices open.

Demand a proper public consultation

DWP is only consulting the public on 25 of the proposed 74 job centre closures. Ludicrously they refuse to consult the

actual claimants who use the job centres about any of the closures and who are most directly affected by the closure. DWP has also limited the timescale for the consultation to just 4 weeks in an attempt to silence criticism of its plans.

Chris Stephens MP, Chair of the PCS parliamentary group says:

“These closures are simply morally outrageous. It will result in the poorest communities not being serviced by a jobcentre and making it even harder for those seeking employment.”

Mark Serwotka, PCS general secretary says:

“Jobcentres provide a lifeline for unemployed, sick and disabled people. We will fight these closures for the staff and those who rely on them for support and help.”

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Sign our petition against the closures <http://bit.ly/2mt1vKa>
- Ask your MP to oppose the closure of DWP offices
- Keep up to speed with the campaign on pcs.org.uk

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