

# November 30th 2011



Unite members, along with other public sector workers across the country are taking part in a national day of action to protest against the government's attack on their pensions. These attacks will mean they work longer, pay more and get less in their retirement.

Please support public sector workers to defend their pensions. Their fight for decent pensions is a fight for us all.

Nobody wants to take industrial action but public sector workers from refuse collectors and electricians to health visitors and blood service staff, feel enough is enough. This government is stealing people's pension money – none of the extra contributions will go back into the pension schemes. **Enough is enough!**

For public sector workers up and down the country, this is an especially worrying time. And if this attack on public sector pensions goes ahead it will not only hit workers' pensions, it will hurt them and their families' future and the communities where they live.

Everyone will know someone who will suffer because of the government's plans – it affects thousands of Unite members in our communities and 1 in 5 people in the country.

**Show your support,  
Get the facts – Get involved.  
[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)**



## Why should taxpayers pay for public sector workers' pensions? We can't afford it!

Taxes are used to pay for all of our public services. A pension is part of a person's salary package for delivering our public services. Five years ago, public sector workers agreed to pay more towards their retirement and a cap was set so taxpayers will not have to pay more.

Public sector workers currently pay around 6 per cent of their salary into their pensions. The government wants them to pay 3.2 per cent more – on top of this public sector workers are facing large scale job losses and a pay freeze, with many low paid. They can't afford the increased contributions and it's not fair.

## Why should the public sector get good pensions when the private sector doesn't?

Unite wants fair pensions for all. It's a scandal that within the private sector two thirds of people don't have an occupational pension. The government should be forcing private sector pensions up to decent levels, not attacking the better schemes.

## Are public sector pensions gold-plated?

NO. The average public sector pension is £5,600 a year and for women it is much less. Half of local government workers receive just £3,048 or less; for NHS staff it is £4,087, while for civil servants it is only £5,023. This is hardly 'gold-plated'.

Unite says that the government is cheating all workers by getting rid of the current pensions' benchmark which will open the floodgates to a race to the bottom in pensions. **Together we can win.**



Show your support,  
Get the facts – Get involved.  
[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)