

26th November 2009



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Allan MacKenzie
Secretary

Dear colleague

Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) Update

Many union members have asked what is happening about the proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. It appears that nothing is happening at the moment as the Civil Service unions have been promised further talks and negotiations and no progress has been made on this. There is nothing worse than no information but that is the reality of this situation.

By the time the formal consultation had ended on 5th October, 18,000 comments had been received, the overwhelming majority of which opposed the proposed cuts to the scheme. Shortly after this date, the unions met Cabinet Office Ministers who agreed to tell their officials to return to talks with our unions.

So what is happening?

We do know that the Government wanted to introduce the changes on 1st January and they have to put forward a change to the Superannuation Act 1986, however in a Parliamentary question asked on 12th November 2009 the following Hansard extract is noted: -

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme will require changes in (a) primary and (b) secondary legislation.

Tessa Jowell: The Minister for the Civil Service amends the Civil Service Compensation Scheme using powers conferred by the Superannuation Act 1972.

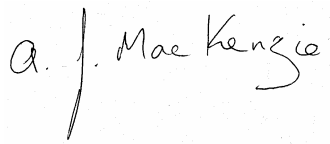
Our interpretation of this means that the Minister is only obliged to lay a Statutory Instrument before Parliament and that these are usually passed with little or no debate.

Unions are calling on members to write to their MP and attend his or her surgery making clear that you oppose the Government's proposals and asking MPs to oppose them in Parliament.

Our unions have begun the process of challenging the Cabinet Office proposals in the courts by issuing preliminary letters to the employer.

If you are as yet not a union member we would ask you to consider joining soon. The more members we have the more successful we will be in defending our terms and conditions. If the Cabinet Office is given the opportunity to enact these proposed changes to the Compensation Scheme then they will think they have a green light to attack us on jobs and pensions. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please visit the [FCTU Website](#).

We will keep members updated through the [CSCS section](#) on the site.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "a. j. MacKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'a' and 'j'.

Allan MacKenzie
FCTU Secretary