

Chaos expected as 30,000 public-sector staff strike

Posted by Tom - 08 May 2012 17:21

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Up to 30,000 members of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) are protesting at Westminster's pension reforms.

The union's Scottish Secretary, Lynn Henderson, said the changes, which appeared in April's pay packets for the first time, were costing some members up to £150 a month.

She said workers were "very angry" and she expected strong support for the strike.

Other Government departments that will be affected include tax and benefit offices, courts, coastguards, Historic Scotland venues including Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle, civilian workers at the Faslane nuclear base and the Scottish Parliament.

Some health workers, mainly porters and technicians from the Unite union, are also expected to take action.

In England, the strike will be more widespread, with 400,000 expected to take part including lecturers, health workers, Ministry of Defence staff, immigration officers, off-duty police officers and members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

PCS figures from last year show the average civil service pension was £6000, and for lower-paid staff it was around £4200. Average pay was £22,850 a year, and 63% of civil servants earned less than £25,000.

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