

CSRF Network National Meeting

Circle Theatre, The Black-E

26th October 2013

Agenda

11.00 – 11.10: **Meeting opens**

1. Election of chair and minute taker
2. Domestic arrangements
3. Standing orders

11.10 – 12.30: Reports and proposals

4. National secretary's report
5. Autumn General Meeting
6. CSRF events at PCS Conference 2014
7. Industrial strategy

12.30 – 13.00: Break

13.00 – 15.30: Discussion and debate

8. National campaign
9. Employer and Group level campaigns

15.30 – 16.00: Any other business (including announcements)

16.00: **Close**

Proposals

1. Autumn General Meeting and Network Bulletin

After only a short period, it has become clear that online meetings as a way to coordinate the network nationally aren't working as intended. This is why a second national meeting was convened, as hosting two face-to-face national meetings per year appears to be a better way to allow the rank-and-file to discuss and coordinate activity.

Therefore, the meeting agrees:

- To scrap the provision that online meetings should be held on a bi-monthly basis;
- That there should be two national meetings per year, unless more are required on an extraordinary or emergency basis;
- That as an ideal we should aim for one of these to act as the network's conference, and the other as a general meeting with the same function as the online meetings would have had, but that whilst the network remains small both shall in effect function as general meetings.

Further, a monthly Network Bulletin should be established. This should contain workplace reports, announcements and items from discussion which can be submitted by any workplace committee and compiled by the national secretary. The NB should be circulated on the Network's email list and published on the website.

2. CSRF events at PCS Conference 2014

In order to help promote and grow the CSRF, we need to consider arranging events at PCS's annual conference from the coming year. (If we gain members from other civil service unions, then their conferences should be equally considered.)

I propose that the following events are organised:

- A meeting for existing Network members who attend as delegates;
- An open meeting for any interested civil servants;
- A fringe meeting on a relevant subject.

The detail of the subject matter, format, speakers, etc should be debated at the new year national meeting. But in the meantime we should delegate somebody the responsibility for assuring that we have times and venues for the above, ideally someone from or near to where Conference will be held.

3. Proposed CSRF Industrial Strategy

While the eventual aim is for all civil servants to be part of a rank-and-file controlled union structure, the immediate concern is to build the militant, independent class struggle from which such a structure can grow.

As we operate in workplaces with recognised TUC unions – primarily PCS, but also occasionally Prospect and FDA/ARC, a militant worker would typically join the union to avoid splits in the workplace between union members and non-union members. This is not prescriptive, however, and the point that our activity should be open to members and non-members alike stands – particularly where elements of the workforce such as security, cleaners or other outsourced staff are casualised and/or non-unionised.

We argue for, and where possible organise, mass meetings. In the ideal, such meetings operate as an alternative to official union structures, which by their nature constrain militant action. Decisions are made directly and collectively in such meetings. Coordinating the work of mass meetings in different workplaces, teams or departments can be done through delegate committees, convened as necessary.

In many workplaces, as it stands, it will only be possible to organise such meetings when a particular dispute arises. In their stead, militant workers should seek to build groups of militant workers prepared to organise direct action – 'workplace committees' – which would organise independently in the workplace. The goal of these committees will be to build collective direct action beyond union structures, organise with other militants independently of the union and seek to build an organised rank-and-file presence on the shop floor.

Each workplace committee is autonomous, subject to the basic principles of and linked through the broader CSRF Network. The Network should in turn aid the development of workplace committees and help in spreading information and disputes beyond individual workplace boundaries.