

Special Executive Council - 17th April 2014

PCS – TRANSFER OF ENGAGEMENTS

Following a decision of the Executive Council, informal talks have been taking place with PCS on exploring a transfer of that union's engagements into Unite.

Unite's team has included the Chair of the Executive Council, executive officers and senior lay colleagues. PCS's team has been led by its General Secretary and has included lay EC members. The talks have covered the constitutional, industrial, political and administrative questions which would arise from joining Unite.

Separately, the Executive Director for Finance has met his opposite number at PCS to consider financial, pension and property issues.

On this basis, there seems to be no impediment to opening formal talks on a transfer of engagements which would bring PCS into Unite. Specifically:

- No significant revision of Unite's rules would be required and the transfer of engagements will be on the basis of our existing rule book.
- Subject to the resolution of pensions issues between PCS and the Pensions Regulator, there are no obvious financial issues that would obstruct a transfer (due diligence will nevertheless have to be completed before any final agreement is brought before the Council).
- No change to Unite's political affiliations will be sought or considered in the context of the formal discussions
- Short-term transitional arrangements will suffice to ensure the full and complete integration of the PCS membership into Unite's existing structures

In this context, and bearing in mind the significant industrial, organisational and political advantages that would accrue to Unite as a result of such a transfer, in terms above all of the consolidation of fighting trade unionism across the public sector, it is recommended that authority be given to open formal talks with PCS to that end.

General Secretary

April 2014

Authority was provided by the Special Executive Council 17th April to open formal talks with PCS