



Public and  
Commercial  
Services Union

**Student Loans Company (Glasgow) Branch**

## **Student Loans Company (SLC) Redundancies**

On the 27th January it was announced that SLC & BIS have decided to cut the Glasgow workforce by 20% which will result in 200 job losses and the threat of compulsory redundancy for the first time in its history.

These cuts will be made up of 3 elements

1. Reduction in funding from BIS for the Change Management Programme (IT)
2. An arbitrary 10% cut in support services
3. Transferring Scanning work from Glasgow to Darlington with the loss of 45 jobs

The jobs that have to be cut are in the main highly skilled IT and support service work and which are very valuable to the local economy and is all the more galling when you consider that 45 of the 200 jobs are being transferred to Darlington from Glasgow as a result of the decision to relocate scanning work.

The PCS Branch Executive Committee (BEC) launched a campaign to defend these jobs and to ensure no member faces the threat of compulsory redundancy. Members endorsed our strategy at well attended mass meetings including if necessary taking Industrial Action.

PCS met the Minister Right Hon David Lammy where we presented him with the attached letter We received his reply and he calls for dialogue/consultation between PCS & SLC he refuses to intervene to stop the cuts or the planned work transfer

PCS have been concerned at the lack of serious consultation over the planned cuts. Although the company has belatedly begun to engage this has been more about managing the staff reductions. We would expect to have been consulted at the outset and allowed to suggest and explore alternatives to job losses and the transfer of work. Instead we have been presented with a fait accompli late in the day.

Our members also have real concerns about the future of the Glasgow Operation as a decision on the current location has to be made by October 2010 when the current lease on the Bothwell Street HQ expires. Many believe that there is a hidden agenda to transfer SLC to England.

PCS have asked SLC to look at the potential of transferring some work from Darlington to Glasgow to compensate for the transfer of 45 jobs from Hillington. We have had no serious response to date

The huge cut proposed in the Information Technology Department is shortsighted in the extreme and forced by arbitrary budget cuts from BIS

SLC is driven by change and to lose the expertise that has built up over 8 years when clearly such expertise will be required in future is folly. We believe we should be looking at alternative work which these skills could be used on in the meantime.

The arbitrary 10% cut in support services makes no sense and can only damage the front line service to students.

We have urged constituency MP's and MSPs

- to request meetings with the BIS Minister and urge him to reverse his savage budget cuts
- reinstate the funding needed by SLC
- ensure there are no compulsory redundancies in SLC
- support the motions to the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments
- to give us any other assistance which they can provide

The staff at SLC live in areas from Dumbarton to Motherwell and from Falkirk to Largs. The jobs may be lost to Glasgow but the impact will hit the whole of the West of Scotland.

### **General Company Information**

The Student Loans Company (SLC) was founded in 1990 and currently employ a total of 1894 members of staff, working from four business centres:

- Glasgow - Head office, employing 1212 members of staff in customer contact centre, collections department, information and communications technology directorate and corporate offices.
- Hillington, Glasgow - our printing, scanning and mailing centre in Hillington employs 99 staff.
- Colwyn Bay, Wales - 30 employees work in the bi-lingual contact centre here on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.
- Darlington - Student Finance England, is based in Darlington, employing 525 permanent staff and dealing with customer enquiries, processing applications and administering payments.

SLC processes and administers financial assistance for undergraduates at universities.

SLC provide loans and non repayable grants to students who successfully secure a place at university or college and tuition fee loans are paid directly to the university.

SLC also

- Pay grants and loans to eligible students
- Pay tuition fees to universities and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Process application forms for new and some returning students in England
- Work with HMRC to collect payments for income contingent loans