

“That this Congress notes the incredible job carried out by workers employed by the Department for Work and Pensions, delivering key services such as Universal Credit, helping those most in need access the assistance they require, throughout the pandemic;

“Congress is appalled to note that, despite these staff having been praised as ‘miracle workers’ by the UK Prime Minister, and ‘exceptional’ by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the DWP announced on 17th March 2022 that 41 ‘back of house’ offices would be closing, threatening the jobs of 3,000 DWP workers;

“Eight offices in Scotland are amongst those that the DWP wants to close. They are: Aberdeen, Ebury House; Kirkcaldy, Victoria Road; Bathgate, Whitburn Road; Dundee, Lindsay House; Falkirk, Callendar Gate; Glasgow, Clydebank, Radnor House; Glasgow, Springburn; and Stirling, St Ninians Road.

“DWP workers live throughout communities across Scotland, contributing to local economies. Their employer plans to remove these jobs from many localities, further restricting job opportunities for people living in those areas and taking away crucial local knowledge possessed by staff in those offices – in contrast to the commendable approach of Social Security Scotland, under the Scottish Government, which is embedding staff in every Local Authority area in Scotland.

“Congress agrees to circulate the PCS petition amongst STUC affiliates, demanding DWP reverses its decision to close these offices or finds other suitable accommodation in the communities where these offices are located.

“Congress calls on Scottish Government to explore whether there is alternative accommodation, either directly through its own estate or through local authority offices, where DWP workers can be located in order that their jobs can be saved and their vital services kept within the communities.”

“Congress commits to fully support the PCS campaign, defending jobs and maintaining vital services in communities.”

Mover: Public and Commercial Services Union