

# Why there's a one-day strike nobody wants.

## WHY THE CRISIS HAS COME TO THIS

**Nobody wants a public service strike. Public servants certainly don't. Nobody who depends on vital public services wants it. Neither do any of our colleagues who are suffering in the private sector. Ireland's international image doesn't need it. So why is it happening?**

It's happening because the Government is refusing to seriously consider alternatives to more public service pay cuts - alternatives that can save money while preserving family incomes and public services.

The Government wants to save €1.3 billion by cutting pay again. That will also mean a massive €1.3 billion will be sucked out of Ireland's real

economy - the economy that keeps Ireland's heart beating; the economy of ordinary business; the economies of our homes, streets, towns and cities.

More private sector jobs will be lost. More people will shop across the border. More businesses will close. Mortgages will not be paid. Vital income tax and VAT revenues will disappear. More people will need social welfare.

***We can find a solution that will deliver the savings the Government needs, protect and improve vital public services, save jobs and help the private sector - while protecting public servants' family incomes.***

***Public servants have already saved the taxpayer €1,300,000,000 (€1.3 billion) in 2009. Between 2009 and 2010 we will have contributed a staggering €3.7 billion through the pension levy, recruitment ban, and the ongoing pay freeze.***

## FACTS ABOUT PUBLIC SERVANTS

- > Most public servants are on low or modest incomes. Two-thirds are paid below €50,000 a year and four out of ten are paid less than €40,000 a year.
- > Last March, every single public servant suffered a pay cut of around 7% - on top of all the new levies and taxes that hit everyone.
- > Public servants pay an average of 6.5% of their pay towards their pensions - on top of PRSI contributions and the so-called 'pension levy'. But the majority of civil servants receive pensions of less than €20,000 a year.
- > Between 5,000 and 6,000 public service jobs have been lost in the last year - and thousands of temporary staff have also been let go.
- > Before the top bankers and speculators collapsed the economy, international studies confirmed Irish public services were good quality and value-for-money compared to other countries.