

Public Service Pensioners' Council

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To: Secretaries of Constituent Organisations

10th November 2014

Dear Colleagues

FORCES PENSION SOCIETY VICTORY ON SUSPENSION OF PENSION ON REMARRIAGE OR COHABITATION

You may have become aware over the weekend that the Forces Pension Society, a constituent organisation of the PSPC, has achieved a success on the suspension of pension on remarriage and cohabitation. From 1 April 2015 the rules of the various Armed Forces pension schemes will be harmonised so that all widows will be able to keep their pensions regardless of their future relationship status.

This is very good news. However, it does not affect those who have already lost their pension – this is harmonisation of rules, not retrospection. Further information is available from the Forces Pension Society at <https://forcespensionsociety.org/news/justice-widows-solution/>.

From the PSPC perspective, this could perhaps open the door to changes in other schemes. The PSPC Manifesto 2015 (www.publicservicepensioners.org.uk/campaigning.htm) calls for the abolition of rules which suspend pension on remarriage or cohabitation and cites 'no retrospection' as the Government's defence. The Government has shown that it is not willing to make retrospective change for those who have lost out, but it is willing to harmonise rules in future even for those who have retired under former regulations. Where the Forces Pension Society has led, others can attempt to follow.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW MORRIS
General Secretary

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