

Public Service Pensioners' Council

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To: Secretaries of Constituent Organisations

May 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this Campaigns Update finds you well.

PSPC CAMPAIGNS UPDATE- Number 65/2017

Public Service Pensioners Council General Election Campaign 2017

The Executive Committee has agreed the following plan of action to ensure that political parties and prospective parliamentary candidates are made aware of our concerns in short run up to the General Election:

- The EC to update the PSPC Manifesto
- The EC to request all main political parties in the UK include our four main concerns in their Election Manifestos.
- A short letter for Constituent Organisations to cascade to members so they can to write or email their local parliamentary candidates.

We have chosen to highlight the following four issues:

- 1. Maintain the Triple Lock, establish a good level of state pension, and fair method of indexation for public sector pensions**
- 2. Maintain Universal Pensioner Benefits**
- 3. Pay Pensions for Life for those widow(ers) who remarry or cohabit**
- 4. Continue uprating of state pensions in the EU post Brexit**

The Executive Council hope that you will use the materials that we have drafted for you to ensure that our Campaign is brought to the attention of as many candidates as possible. The Manifesto and covering letter for your members is included with this update and also attached to the email.

The documents are also downloadable from the PSPC website at this link;
<http://publicservicepensioners.org.uk/>

Anyone who is uncertain of their local parliamentary candidates can find their names and contact details by entering their postcode into the site <https://whocanivotefor.co.uk>

I would be interested to see copies of responses received, please email them to me at pspc@cspa.co.uk

Thank you!

General Secretary: Lisa Ray

ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Association of Retired and Former HMI Schools • Association of HM Inspectors of Schools (Scotland) • Association of Local Authority Chief Executives • Association of Teachers and Lecturers • Association of School and College Leaders • British Broadcasting Corporation Pensioners Association • Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance • Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (Scotland) • Educational Institute of Scotland • Forces Pension Society • Foreign and Commonwealth Office Association • GMB • MDP Retired Officers' Association • National Association of Head Teachers • National Association of Retired Firefighters • National Association of Retired Police Officers • National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers • National Federation of Occupational Pensioners • National Union of Teachers • Overseas Service Pensioners' Association • Prospect • Public and Commercial Services Union • Retired Police Officers' Association (Scotland) • Retired Prison Governors Association • Retired Teachers' Association (Northern Ireland) • Scottish Retired Teachers' Association • UNISON • University and College Union

AGM 2017 and looking to 2018

The AGM was held on Wednesday 3 May and was well attended. A brief report of the meeting is enclosed with this update and is also available on the PSPC website.

Once again there was some discussion at the lack of female representatives (with the exception of our Vice Chair, Carole Regan) on the Executive Committee. I would welcome nominations at next year's AGM to work towards a more even balance. Please start thinking now about suitable candidates, I'm sure there are plenty of talented women in our constituent organisations who could bring their experience to the Executive Committee. Anyone who would like to know more is welcome to contact me.

Indexation of Pensions

A motion put forward by Executive Committee that the PSPC begin campaigning for CPI (H) to be used to uprate those public sector pensions currently increased in line with CPI was carried unanimously at the AGM. The motion also stated that the EC would maintain a watching brief on the HII and consult the AGM further when there is clarity in its status. The EC will be considering how to take this forward after the General Election.

Pensions for Life

Some public service pension schemes will not pay a widow's or widower's pension when they remarry or cohabit with a new partner. This is an outdated, unfair and unnecessary complication which prevents those who cannot afford to lose their pension from enjoying companionship and support in later life. PSPC affiliates in NARPO have been very proactive and have made some solid progress, recently securing cross-party support at a lobby in Parliament, and an Early Day Motion progressed by Tim Farron to debate widows pensions for life. This issue will be progressed once the next Government is in place.

Subscription Fees for 2017-2018

The motion moved by the Executive Committee to increase subscription costs by 25% this year for 2017-2018 and 25% for 2018-2019 was carried unanimously. Subscription fees for 2017-18 are:

Annual Subscription: 2017-2018

Membership	1,000 or under	£104.00
Membership	1,001 to 10,000	£160.00
Membership	10,001 to 20,000	£210.00
Membership	over 20,000	£270.00

Requests for payment of subscriptions will be sent separately. The 2017 PSPC constitution, reflecting new subscription rates will also be circulated to constituent members in due course.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any items in this update.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Ray

General Secretary