

Public Service Pensioners' Council

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To: Secretaries of Constituent Organisations

...February 2013

Dear Colleagues

RPI ACTION DAY: 8 APRIL 2013

As you know, the PSPC is continuing its campaign alongside our colleagues in the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (CSPA), the National Pensioners' Convention (NPC), the Occupational Pensioners' Alliance (OPA) and Age UK to restore the use of the RPI for indexation and to raise awareness of the inadequacies of the CPI.

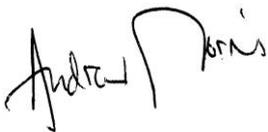
An indexation event had been planned to take place sometime during the beginning of March. Unfortunately due to the unavailability of key speakers or a Government spokesperson, the decision has been made to indefinitely postpone this event. We will let you know as soon as we have details of any future campaigning activities.

In the meantime we are publicising 'RPI Action Day' on 8 April 2013. RPI Action Day involves members writing to their MPs to tell them how the switch to CPI indexation is continuing to affect them. RPI Action Day will be on 8 April 2013 because benefits and pensions are up-rated during that week.

Please ask your members to send or email their letter, using the template we have prepared, to reach their MP the week beginning 8 April. They could also arrange to see their MP in their surgery that week. By ensuring all the letters are received by MPs at the same time we will have maximum impact.

I have enclosed a hard copy of the MP template letter. To obtain an online version please go to the news page of the PSPC website at: www.publicservicepensioners.org.uk

Yours sincerely



ANDREW MORRIS
General Secretary

General Secretary: ANDREW MORRIS

ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Association of HM Inspectors of Schools OFSTED Section Committee • 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

Dear

INDEXATION CHANGES - CONTINUED IMPACT ON PENSIONERS

I am writing to you, as my MP, about the continued impact of the switch away from RPI indexation on my pension income.

As you know, this change now affects the basic and second state pensions, all public sector occupational pensions and many private sector schemes as well.

My pension income has just been uprated using CPI but had RPI been maintained the figure would be 0.4% higher. Although this seems a small difference, it has to be recognised that indexation changes do their work gradually over a period of years. RPI is on average 0.7% a year higher than CPI meaning someone with a £5k pension will lose £15k over a 25-year retirement. This represents a huge loss of purchasing power.

I do not have the option available to other members of the community of seeking further employment and I am reliant on indexation arrangements to maintain my income. I am therefore asking you to support a return to RPI indexation at the very least from the start of the new Parliament.

The Government says it based its decision to switch indexation of pensions from RPI to CPI in order to help pay down the country's financial deficit. But why should pensioners continue to suffer further losses once the deficit has been either cleared or reduced to a more manageable level?

I would also ask that you raise my concerns about the impact of the switch on my and other pensioners' retirement income with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this correspondence and I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely