Rt Hon David Davis

Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

9 Downing Street

London

SW1A 2AG

22 August 2017

Dear Secretary of State,

**Brexit Negotiations need to protect pensioners**

I am writing on behalf of the Public Service Pensioners’ Council. We bring together the various organisations for retired public servants and the retired members’ sections of public sector unions.

PSPC members are not just concerned about protecting existing pensioners. From the vantage point of retirement, we recognise the importance of pensions for current and future public sector workers, and better state pension provision for all pensioners to ensure dignity in retirement.

Now that the Brexit negotiations have begun, we wanted to express our support for the stance that the UK is taking in these first stage proceedings. We hope that you will continue to press for an agreement to ensure that those in receipt of a UK state pension, but resident in the EU, will continue to receive their pension. Many pensioners have unfortunately seen the value of the state pension decrease, as sterling falls against the euro, and it is crucially important that the pension continues to be uprated by the triple lock.

We would also like to emphasise our support for the continuation of Universal Pensioner Benefits, both during the negotiations and once the UK has left the EU. These benefits are a lifeline to many pensioners helping to provide for access to local communities, support for those who are caring for partners, friends and grandchildren, and help with general wellbeing. The ability to stay connected and active can in turn, ease the pressure on the social care sector and NHS.

Lastly, we are concerned at an increasing tendency for older and retired people to be blamed by both politicians and the media, for the problems that are being faced by our society. Older people are portrayed as taking from the younger generation, when we know that retirees continue to contribute much to society,often voluntarily, as well as supporting their own children and grandchildren.

The Public Service Pensioners’ Council is here to protect dignity in retirement and later life, for all generations, and we ask you to ensure that the Brexit negotiations take account of the needs of older people, both now and in the future.

We wish you the best for the negotiations and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Ray

General Secretary

Public Service Pensioners’ Council