

DIGNITY IN RETIREMENT

Government measures undermine pensioners' living standards

The switch from Retail Prices Index (RPI) to Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for pensions indexation.

Pensioners are already out of pocket, in real cash terms. The Office for Budget Responsibility has estimated recently that the gap between RPI and CPI will widen to 1.4 percent over the next few years.

We ask MPs to support our campaign and support the return to RPI.

Vote AGAINST the 2013 Social Security Benefits (Uprating) Order, if it does not revert to the RPI link. Help defend the quality of life of pensioners across the UK.

The failure to extend the benefits of the new single-tier pension arrangements to existing pensioners.

The proposed single-tier £140 a week state pension will only apply to those who retire after 2015/16 and excludes millions of pensioners, particularly women, who exist on incomes way below that level.

It is right to reduce the scale of means-testing in the pensions system but it would be wrong to leave some existing pensioners with an income below that being offered to new retirees.

Any proposals for pension reform should therefore seek to remove inequalities and unfairness, and make improvements for both existing and future pensioners.

Freezing the age-related personal tax allowances from 2013, hits the over 75s the hardest.

This allowance was originally introduced by Sir Winston Churchill in recognition of the additional everyday costs faced by older people.

The 2012 Budget proposal to phase out the age-related tax allowance breaks the promise made in the 2011 Budget to increase them by RPI for the rest of the Parliament.

The age-related personal allowances for all over 65s should be restored, along with their indexation to RPI.

We need your support to:

- Reinstatement of the Retail Prices Index as the indexation measure for pension increases.
- Improve the UK state pension for all. The proposed £140 a week state pension must not create further inequalities between existing and future pensioners.
- Restore age-related personal allowances for all over-65s.



We urge all delegates to raise these issues with their MPs during the Party Conference. Thank you.