



2 December 2011

Embargoed until 9.45am, Friday 2 December

N.F.O.P and CSPA disappointed by Judge's ruling on CPI

Members of the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (N.F.O.P) and the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (CSPA) feel let down by the judgment handed down today against the re-instatement of RPI for pension increases – but have vowed to continue the campaign.

After the hearing of the Judicial Review challenge in October of this year, brought by N.F.O.P, CSPA, NARPO and other pensioner organisations and unions, Judges have ruled that the Government had the power to switch from the RPI to CPI, despite the negative long-term impact this would have on occupational pensioners.

However, one Judge did agree with the organisations' contention that it was not permissible for the Secretary of State to employ public expenditure considerations as the primary reason for selecting CPI. Therefore, the groups are still considering whether an appeal will be launched, and in the meantime will continue to campaign against this injustice.

Both N.F.O.P and the CSPA will also be consulting urgently with their legal advisors on whether the High Court has properly addressed their arguments that the CPI, because it measures consumer behaviour as well as price rises, falls outside of the statutory test for an index suitable for use for pension increases. So, an appeal on these grounds may also be launched

Roger Turner, General Secretary of N.F.O.P, said that in the current climate of climbing living costs, pensioners may find themselves in increasing difficulties as a result of this decision.

“With soaring utility prices and rail fares increasing in line with the RPI plus one percent, already meagre pensioner incomes will be squeezed even further.

“Our members are bitterly disappointed by this decision, but we have reassured them that we will not let this matter rest until we have seen justice done for the most needy sector of our society.”

Mike Duggan, General Secretary of the CSPA said:

“With our members facing a loss of up to 15 percent of their retirement income because of the switch from RPI to CPI, the Alliance and N.F.O.P will not give up on their legal challenge if there are good grounds for appealing against the High Court decision.

“We still believe that the Government blithely ignored its legal responsibilities in moving from RPI to CPI and intend to continue action, if it is possible, to hold it to account for its actions.”

Notes to editors:

1. N.F.O.P is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is a democratic, non-party-political organisation of occupational pensioners. We were formerly known as UNITE, the National Federation of Royal Mail and BT Pensioners
2. N.F.O.P represents the interests of over 90,000 occupational pensioners from across the country and abroad. Speaking with one voice enables us to engage more powerfully with Government and Parliament on behalf of our members.
3. To contact N.F.O.P call 01582 721652, email info@nfop.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. CSPA is an organisation for retired civil servants, which campaigns on a wide range of issues, particularly pensions, of concern to civil service pensioners specifically, and to pensioners generally.
2. CSPA represents over 60,000 individual civil service pensioners and is recognised by the Cabinet Office as representative of all retired civil servants.
3. CSPA can be contacted on 020 8688 8418 and at enquiries@cspa.co.uk.