



08 December 2015

Concerns of NFOP members heard in House of Lords

On Thursday 3rd of December, the concerns of members of the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners were heard in a debate in the House of Lords.

Labour peer, and former TV presenter, Baroness Joan Bakewell introduced a debate on the provision made by Government for informing women in their fifties of their pension expectations.

When this group of women started work, they would have expected to retire at the age of 60. In 1995 women were told their State Pension Age would become 65 no earlier than 2020, and then in 2011 it was brought forward to 2016.

This has left women born in the early to mid-1950s in a difficult position where they have seen their State Pension Age rise by five years with just a few years warning. They are likely to experience a considerable impact on their retirement income and plans, and a number of criticisms have been made around a lack of communication from the Department of Work and Pensions. This means that many in this group may still be unaware as to how the changes will affect them, or importantly, what actions they can take to try and mitigate the impact.

NFOP has been working in partnership with a number of organisations to highlight the high levels of confusion amongst the public around what the new state pension, previously called the 'single-tier' state pension, means in practice.

In addition to drawing attention to the problems faced by this age group of women, NFOP has shone a light on the fact that whilst those on the New State Pension will have the entirety of their pension protected by the triple lock, those already in receipt of their state pension do not benefit from the triple lock on their additional or second state pension.

This point was acknowledged by former Pensions Minister and Shadow Spokesperson for Work and Pensions, Lord Bill McKenzie during the debate. He said:

"The National Federation of Occupational Pensioners reinforces the point that its members are confused about which system they are in. It also points out what it says is an anomaly—that the triple lock applies to the entirety of the single-tier pension, whereas it applies to just the basic state pension under current arrangements. The federation also emphasises the difficulty which the increases in the state pension age have presented for women born in the 1950s."



Malcolm Booth, CEO of NFOP said:

“We are delighted that members of the House of Lords are listening to our members. We will continue to press the Government to consider transferring existing pensioners into the New State Pension on a ‘no detriment’ basis and to introduce proper transitional arrangements for women adversely affected by the equalisation of the State Pension Age.”

Notes to editors:

1. NFOP is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is a democratic, non-party-political organisation of occupational pensioners.
2. NFOP represents the interests of over 70,000 members who are occupational pensioners from across the country and abroad.
3. To contact NFOP call 01582 721652. info@nfop.org.uk. To contact Malcolm Booth please call 07553 331293. www.nfop.org.uk.