

# Help us protect our **PENSION**



**Members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) are asking for your help to save their pension.**

## **Why?**

English and Welsh employers have persuaded the UK government to change our pension scheme for the worse. The Scottish Executive has said it will do the same. Our present retirement age is 65, but some of us with long service can retire from 60 onwards. Their changes would remove this right for anyone now under 53. The Executive says it needs to do this to implement European age discrimination laws. Our employers and the EU disagree. We have been negotiating with the SPPA for months but they still say they will follow UK government policy.

  
*the public service union*



## Who are we?

Three quarters of us are women, many in low paid, part-time jobs. UNISON – our union – represents most LGPS members. We are classroom assistants, home helps, police staff, school meals workers, meat hygiene inspectors, environmental health officers, emergency services control room staff, refuse collectors and key administrators. We provide your water supplies and keep them clean, keep your colleges and universities working and your local transport systems running. Without us, many key public services would grind to a halt.

## Are we “pension fat cats”?

Some papers say we get a free pension and retire to a life of luxury. In fact:

- We pay 6% of our earnings into the LGPS

- Our average pension is only £3,800 and just £1,600 for women!

- For many, pensions fall below benefit levels

- Life expectancy has increased, but not for manual workers

- Some jobs we do will be physically impossible over 60. What are we to do?

- These changes will affect 10% of all working people, their families and their communities.

## All we want is fairness

As public sector workers we have never expected high wages, but we did expect that our pension would be safe. We paid into the scheme on that basis. Many of our employers reduced their contributions during the 80's and 90's, but we continued to pay in. Now they want us to pay again for their poor financial judgements.

We want fair treatment, not special favours. The government has protected the pensions of all current civil servants, NHS staff, teachers, police and the armed forces. Why should

we be treated differently to those we work with?

## You can show your support. Please:

- Write to your MSP and your MP and tell them LGPS members deserve equal treatment

- Use our draft letter on our website as the basis of your letter to MSPs. Visit **[unison-scotland.org.uk/pensions](http://unison-scotland.org.uk/pensions)**

- Get details of local activities from your local UNISON branch or speak to the UNISON LGPS Campaign Unit - on 020 7551 1374/ 020 7551 1289.

For more details, and to email your MP, visit **[unison.org.uk/pensions](http://unison.org.uk/pensions)**

Thank you for reading this and for any support you can give.

