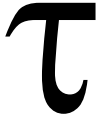


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Trades Union Congress

Attention: Industrial correspondents/pensions media
one page

TUC group's statement on public service pension schemes

Below is an agreed statement on behalf of the TUC's Public Service Liaison Group, following this afternoon's meeting on public service pensions schemes:

'TUC public service unions today declared their determination to campaign strongly together to oppose deeply damaging changes to public service pensions schemes.

A meeting of the TUC's Public Services Liaison Group received reports from unions on the changes being proposed across the full range of public service pension schemes. A strong common theme is to increase the normal pension age, normally to 65 in schemes which offer pensions at earlier ages. Changes also include moves away from final salary based pensions and reduced benefits.

The TUC will be seeking an urgent meeting with senior Ministers to press union concerns and to seek the evidence on which Government proposals are based. Unions will be demanding genuine negotiation on any proposed changes, with the aim of offering real choice for members of public service schemes.

Plans will now be made to intensify the campaign following on from last month's successful Parliamentary lobby by public service unions. This will include further lobbying of MPs, and planning for a day of campaigning action in the New Year.

If constructive progress is not made the possibility of industrial action may then arise.

A further meeting will be held early in January to review developments and plans for the campaign.'

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- All TUC press releases can be found at www.tuc.org.uk
- Register for the TUC's **press extranet**: a service exclusive to journalists wanting to access pre-embargo releases and reports from the TUC. Visit www.tuc.org.uk/pressextranet
- A series of **TUC rights leaflets** are available on our website and from the *know your rights line* 0870 600 4 882. Lines are open every day from 9am-9pm. Calls are charged at the national rate.

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