

Xxxxxx MP  
House of Commons  
Palace of Westminster  
London SW1A 0AA

Dear xxxx,

### **Public Sector Pensions**

I am writing to ask for your support for the public sector unions and UNISON in particular in the current dispute with the Government over their proposals to change pension schemes. The proposals mean that public sector workers will have to pay more, work longer and get less. The pension schemes were already adapted for people living longer in the 2008 negotiated revisions. The changes made, left the schemes sustainable for the foreseeable future. The proposed changes now are to save the employers money and to raise money from public sector workers to pay off the national debt. Public Sector workers did not cause the debt so why should they pay?

The latest proposals make little change. As before:

- contributions will be increased for all pension scheme members earning over £15,000 a year by an average 3.2%
- anyone who won't already be within 10 or 14 years of the current Normal Retirement Age will now face increases in their Retirement Age, rising in line with the State Pension Age, rising to 66, then 67, then 68
- the treasury's preferred design for all schemes remains a Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme(CARE) rather than final salary
- the pension income received in retirement will be indexed to a new, lower measure of inflation, CPI, which is lower than the Retail Price Index used currently.

Whilst the unions welcome the movement from the Government and we are prepared to continue to negotiate, the details of these proposals have to be negotiated with each individual scheme.

Industrial action is always a last resort for UNISON. Unfortunately, the Tory laws on industrial action force us to continue our strike on 30th November as the law requires the first action to be taken within 28 days of the result of the ballot. If strike action is not taken on 30<sup>th</sup> and negotiations collapse we would have to ballot almost one million members again.

I hope you will show your support for public sector workers fighting to protect their pensions both on 30<sup>th</sup> November and by writing to Danny Alexander MP. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,