

Tuesday 26 October, 2004

**AGE CONCERN RESPONSE TO AGE DISCRIMINATION REPORT BY
PERSONNEL TODAY AND RESEARCH FIRM NOP**

Gordon Lishman, Age Concern's Director-General, said:

"These figures are appalling but regrettably come as no surprise. It's an absolute disgrace that tens of thousands of people are denied the opportunity to work or given their P45 each year - simply because of their age.

"Thousands of older people contact us to voice their concerns and frustrations at not being able to find employment. If given the chance, up to a million extra older workers could be in employment today, adding £30 billion to the UK's annual economic output. It's time that employers woke up to the fact that older people can help fill skills gaps and make an enormous contribution to the workplace.

"The future of older people's rights and choices at work is hanging in the balance. It's imperative that the Government acts immediately to scrap mandatory retirement ages so that employers are in no doubt that age discrimination is unacceptable. Failure to do so will leave legislation in tatters and deny millions the right to work."