

**NUT to ballot for one day strike over pensions**

Members of Britain's biggest teachers' union, the NUT, are to be balloted for a one day strike against Government plans to worsen public sector pension entitlements.

Members in schools throughout England and Wales will be asked to give their backing to a strike which would take place in April. If members support a strike it will be without strike pay. Under the Union's rules in such circumstances a simple majority of those voting is required for the strike to go ahead.

The Government proposes to raise the normal pension age for teachers from 60 to 65. The change will take effect for existing teachers on 1 September 2013. Pensions on service up to that date will continue to be payable from age 60. All service after 2013 will be on the basis of a normal pension age of 65 and subject to actuarial reduction if drawn before age 65.

The NUT calculates that teachers now at the start of their careers and who retire when they are 60 will lose tens of thousands of pounds unless they carry on working to 65.

For example, a teacher born on October 31, 1980 started teaching on September 1, 2003. She proposes to retire on August 31, 2040 aged 60 having complete 37 years' reckonable service. Basing her pension on a current salary of £23,301 under current arrangement she would receive a lump sum of £32,330 and a pension of £10,777.

Under the Government's proposals, her lump sum would be £27,410 and her pension £9,137. This means a loss of £4,920 from her lump sum and £1,640 from her pension.

Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, said:

"The Government is not listening to teachers and other public service workers about the injustice of its proposals. I want members to support a one-day strike.

"The NUT, the other teachers' organisations and the public service unions have worked hard to persuade the Government to withdraw its proposals. But, so far, it has refused to budge."

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