

**February 3 2005**

**AGE CONCERN RESPONSE TO LATEST PENSION CREDIT TAKE UP FIGURES**

**Gordon Lishman, Director-General of Age Concern England said:**

"Around a third of pensioners who are eligible for Pension Credit are still not receiving it. The Government must do more to get this extra money to older people.

"It is shameful that one in five pensioners now lives in poverty and many older people struggle to cover daily living costs. The basic state pension should be increased to at least £105 a week to provide a solid foundation for retirement and reduce reliance on means-testing."