

## **IMMEDIATE**

Monday 15 November

### **NASUWT MEMBERS TO PRESS MPs TO OPPOSE PENSION REFORMS**

Teachers from across the country will travel to London tomorrow (Tuesday 16 November) to meet their constituency MPs in the Houses of Parliament to urge them to challenge Government proposals to worsen the pension provision for teachers.

Members of NASUWT have arranged their appointments as part of a wider TUC lobby on public sector pensions which asks MPs to sign an Early Day Motion calling for a rethink of Government's plans to increase retirement age and worsen benefits.

**Chris Keates**, General Secretary of NASUWT, the largest union representing teachers and headteachers throughout the UK, said:

"NASUWT members have come to Westminster to deliver the message to their MPs that while they fully support the reform of public sector pensions to facilitate flexible retirement, they strongly oppose any package which increases normal retirement age, worsens benefits and breaks the pension promise made to existing staff.

"Evidence from 'Teachers' Pensions' shows that only a minority of teachers retiring do so at the normal pension age of 60, few teachers remain beyond 60, very few remain beyond 65 and the majority of retirements are 'early' or because of ill health.

"Teachers are extremely angry about the proposals. It is a hot topic at every meeting of members around the country.

"The Government's proposed changes will seriously damage teacher motivation and morale and could worsen recruitment and retention at a time when the Government is emphasising raising educational standards."

**ENDS**

**Press office: 020 7420 9670**

Chris Keates GS  
Jerry Bartlett Acting DGS

Office: 0121 453 6150 Home: 0121 475 4016 Mobile: 07966 202403  
Office: 0121 453 6150 Home: 01562 742498 Mobile: 07966 202407

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. NASUWT members will be arriving at St Stephen's Gate at 11am onwards.
2. NASUWT has a photographer at the event. For pictures, call Robin Hammond, Icon Photography on 07866 489 959.
3. The Early Day Motion will appear on the House of Commons Order Paper on Tuesday 16 November stating that this House:

“Welcomes the initiative of the TUC and its affiliate unions on organising a lobby of Parliament on public sector pensions today, 16 November; recognises the opportunity for MPs to hear firsthand the concerns of many hundreds of public servants that a compulsory increase in the normal retirement age from 60 to 65 represents a significant reduction in their terms and conditions; and urges Government and trade unions to discuss urgently whether a flexible decade of retirement could meet both government objectives and the concerns of public servants.”

## **National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers**