

22 February 2005

Age Concern statement in response to Liberal Democrats women's manifesto

Director General of Age Concern England, Gordon Lishman said:

"All the parties need to convince older women that they will deliver for them if elected. Two-thirds of women over the age of 55 will vote on Election Day, but one in five are currently undecided who to vote for.

The Liberal Democrats have recognised that older women are a powerful group, and their votes could have a significant impact on the outcome of the General Election. One in five women live in poverty, and the situation they face in retirement is a national disgrace. The Liberal Democrats have put forward an interesting proposal which is a welcome addition to the debate.

All the parties' manifestos should commit to a radical overhaul of the state pension system, which is outdated and failing to meet the needs of today's women. Raising the state pension to £105 per week would ensure that all older people have a decent income in retirement."