

EMBARGO: 1300 hours
Thursday 10 February 2005

NUT seeks members' views on action over pensions

Members of Britain's biggest teachers' union, the NUT, are to be consulted on the methods they want to use to fight Government plans to worsen public sector pension entitlements.

Members in schools throughout England and Wales will be asked whether they want a one day strike, action short of a strike, or if they would prefer non-industrial action such as rallies and leafleting.

Survey forms will be dispatched to members on February 14 for return to the Electoral Reform Balloting Services by 28 February. Balloting on possible industrial action - including a strike option - could begin on 21 March.

Mary Compton, NUT President, and Steve Sinnott, NUT General Secretary, will 1400 hours today deliver 60,000 postcards to the Department for Education and Skills from Union members protesting at government plans to worsen their pension arrangements.

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 go on to 65.

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 the strongest possible option - 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.”

E N D

PR.07/05

For further information contact: Olive Forsythe tel: 020 3780 4706 (office) 020 8313 1692 (weekday evenings) or if all else fails 07879 480061.

