

PE1757/B

Petitioner submission of 6 January 2020

In response to the Scottish Government submission of 3 December 2019.

The submission by the Scottish Government sets out the regulatory framework under which the Local Government Pension scheme in Scotland operates and asserts that the actuarial reductions are based on an approach that is based on the principle of “fiscal neutrality”. Whilst the response explains the current approach which Scottish Ministers adopt it does not explain why Scottish Ministers take the view that the advice of the actuary is to be adopted without question. It also fails to make any reference to the fair and just society which Scotland seeks to have.

The response also fails to acknowledge that the rise in the State Pension Age has effectively increased the level of reductions which were in place prior to the new regulations introduced in 2015. For example a woman in 2009 aged 62 taking retirement would have had a 15% reduction, however that same woman aged 62 in 2020 with a state retirement pension age of 67 would see their pension reduced by 24%. The response further states that the factors are provided on a unisex basis, and as such it fails to acknowledge that women account for the majority of the local government workforce and as such are disproportionately affected.

In short the response submitted by the Scottish Government fails to acknowledge or address the essence of the petition that I submitted which is that the level of reductions which are implemented by Scottish Ministers are punitively high and that aligning retirement with the State Pension Age further exacerbates the reductions. I would therefore welcome the opportunity to express my concerns in person to the Public Petitions Committee and respectfully ask that they consider this request.