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19 September 2011

Conor Murphy MLA
Chair
DFP Assembly Committee,
R419 Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

COMMITTEE FOR
2011
F & P

Dear Mr Murphy

Northern Ireland Civil Service Equal Pay Settlement

I understand that your committee is investigating the above matter and that you may be taking evidence from the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (CSPA) in the near future. The CSPA is a long standing member of the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) and we have a keen interest in the outcome of your enquiries.

The NPC lobbies and campaigns on behalf of pensioners, through our constituent membership made up of local pensioners' organisations and trade union retired members' associations we represent about 1.5 million older people in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

At our Pensioners' Parliament in June this year, the N.I. Branch of the CSPA made a presentation to a plenary session about the terms of the NICS Equal Pay Settlement which, as you know, excluded a large number of pensioners from benefiting even though they had undertaken precisely the same work over a 6 year period as serving officers who have now been receiving substantial compensatory sums. The unanimous view of the Parliament was that steps should now been taken to rectify this very unfair situation.


We recently wrote to the Minister, Sammy Wilson, but received what appeared to be a standard response which neither addressed the issue of equity nor the reasons behind his decision. We find it very unsatisfactory that the Minister should give, what appears to us, a lame excuse that he is not legally obliged to compen-

sate the pensioners. In our view he is morally bound and should now do the right thing.

I do hope, therefore, that not only will you give the CSPA delegation a sympathetic hearing, but that once you have completed your enquiries you will be able to make a firm recommendation to the Minister that the pensioners should be compensated for their loyal service thereby rectifying this injustice.

I should be most grateful if you would copy this letter to the other Members of your Committee for information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dot Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Dot Gibson
General Secretary