



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Conor Murphy MP, MLA
Committee Chairman
Finance & Personnel Committee
Parliament Buildings
Stormont, BT4 3XX

26th September 2011

URGENT

Dear Conor,

Re: Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance – Retired NICS Members

I am writing on behalf of a number of constituents, who are retired civil servants, whose civil service pensions are amongst the lowest. They are included within a small group of about 400 civil servants living throughout Northern Ireland, who were in the lowest administrative grades and are now living on very modest pensions.

Last year, I wrote – though in vain - to the local Finance Minister, Sammy Wilson M.P., M.L.A., urging him to review the refusal of his Department to extend the N.I. Civil Service Equal Pay Settlement to those civil servants who should and would have benefitted from that Settlement, but for their retirement. The sums involved in compensating this group of retired civil servants are, I understand, not so substantial as to be unreasonable for the Finance Minister to agree, even in these harsh economic times.

It does seem, therefore, most unfair that this identifiable and small group of lowly-paid retired civil servants should find themselves excluded from the Settlement negotiated with NIPSA, purely on account of their retirement.

In these circumstances, I must urge that the Department of Finance be strongly encouraged and firmly persuaded by your Committee to prove itself a good employer by agreeing to compensate this group of retired civil servants for lost pension entitlement.

Kindest regards as ever,

Sylvia
Lady Hermon MP

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