

10 KEY PENSION FACTS

As we all know, pensions are complicated financial products and trying to explain to any one in any detail what the government is proposing to do to the pensions of public sector employees is complicated and confusing.

However, it is important that the media and people who work in the private sector understand why radiographers and other public sector staff have voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action on 30 November.

Below are 10 key points that may be helpful when asked by patients and others as to why you and your colleagues will be on strike:

- 1** Employees are being told to take a 3% cut in pay in order to pay off a deficit that they did not create;
- 2** Even after working for several years longer and paying more into the pension 'pot', pensions will be worth less;
- 3** It is unfair that many employees in the private sector face poverty in retirement but it doesn't make it more fair to bring public sector employees into the same situation;
- 4** Costs of public sector pensions are NOT unsustainable, even by the government's own measures;
- 5** The NHS scheme in particular is secure and affordable, as agreed by the government three years ago.
- 6** We are being asked to pay £3billion more a year for a smaller pension. The government cancelled a tax on banker's bonuses that would have raised at least £2billion - the people who helped create the deficit.
- 7** No, the pensions of public workers are not 'gold-plated'. Most are worth less than £5600 a year. Half of women public sector pensioners get less than £4000 a year.
- 8** A YouGov poll asked people what they thought the average public sector pension ought to be. The average answer was £17,088. Almost half of respondents believed the average public sector pension is more than £10,000.
- 9** The last government did negotiate pension reforms with staff and reduced the cost of future pensions by 14 per cent. And now this government wants to slash them even more.
- 10** The government's own commission said: "The Commission firmly rejected the claim that current public service pensions are gold-plated."

More information is on the TUC website at tuc.org.uk



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