

**An Chomhchoiste um
Fhormhaoirsiú ar an tSeirbhís
Poiblí agus Achainíocha**

Tithe an Oireachtais,
Teach Laighean,
Baile Áth Cliath 2



**Joint Committee on Public Service
Oversight and Petitions**

Houses of the Oireachtas,
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12 August 2014

Our Ref: PSOP_I_204_2014

Mr. John Maher
Private Secretary to the Minister
For Jobs Enterprise and Innovation
23 Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re: Petition No P00033/13 from Mr. Henry Gaynor in relation to 'Equality and fairness regarding the raising of the State Pension to 66 and beyond'.

Dear Mr. Maher,

The Joint sub-Committee on Public Petitions has received Petition No. P00033/13 from Ms. Henry Gaynor: *'Equality and fairness regarding the raising of the State Pension to 66 and beyond'*.

The remit of the Joint Committee on Public Service Oversight and Petitions is to examine Oversight of Public Service Delivery. The Joint Committee can propose recommendations thereby helping to drive improvements to the quality and standards of the public services being delivered.

The Petitioner has suggested Legislation needs to be introduced to allow for the following:


- (a) Workers already in the system should be allowed to retire with the State Pension at 65 if they wish.
- (b) The proposed raising of the State Pension age should apply to new entrants to the workforce.

In the event of there being no desire to implement (a) or (b) above through the introduction of new legislation, then will the Minister consider new Legislation which would compel employers to retain employees beyond age 65 if the employee wishes to remain in the workforce. As you can appreciate the public are already suffering financially as a result of the changes implemented to the State Pension and currently have no option but to retire from work at age 65.

The Joint sub-Committee will need to have a response to the points raised in relation to the petition no later than **28th of August 2014** in order to be in a position to consider the matter at a meeting scheduled for **17th of September 2014**.

I would appreciate if you could reply, providing the information requested and any other information you consider relevant by that date. I am attaching the text of the petition for information.

Yours sincerely


Anita Gibbons
Petitions Case Manager

Text of Petition:

The Government proposes to raise the State Pension age to 66 from January 1st. 2014. These changes apply not only to new entrants to the workforce but also those who have been in the system for decades. E.G. A person born in 1949 will reach age 65 in 2014. As was common at the time they might have left school and started working in 1963 at age 14, paying tax and social insurance for 51 years in the expectation they would retire with a pension at age 65. Now they find they will have to sign on for Job Seekers Allowance for one year and be actively seeking a new job. There is no compulsion on their employer to keep them on if the person wishes to work on for another year. Contrast this with changes to pension arrangements in the public sector. Any changes introduced apply to new entrants only, those in the sector before the changes take place keep on to their existing arrangements. In the interest of equality, fairness, and justice the proposed raising of the State Pension age to 66 should apply to new entrants to the workforce, those already in and contributing to system should receive the pension at age 65 as would have been their normal expectation for decades.