

Dear Deputy

I am mailing you to point out some of the anomalies that have arisen from the reduction in public service pensions, which took place early this year. This reduction has caused hardship for many pensioners since its introduction because:

- Very many public servants do not have the 40 years' service required to secure a full pension;
- The reduction in pension does not take account of whether a pensioner has any other income or entitlement. Those with no other income suffer a much greater percentage loss;
- Women who have taken time out to rear a family do not have full pensionable service;
- Widows/widowers pensions are generally 50% of the pension payable to the public servant. A social welfare pension of approximately €12,000 a year is also payable. For an average public servant their spouse's income may be higher and have a lesser cut than that of the public servant when he/she was alive;
- Staff who paid modified PRSI rate (D rate) will have a greater cut than those who paid the full PRSI (A rate);
- The standard rate of state pension (contributory) is approximately €12,000 a year. In many cases an adult dependant's pension, of up to €10,730, is also payable giving a total of over €22,700. This has not been cut, but the public servant's pension has been cut at €12,000;
- A public servant earning a pension of €22,700 has been cut by over 2.8%
- Despite the difficulties experienced by many pension funds, most pensioners have not suffered a pension cut, except for public service pensioners. The new levy on pension funds will amount to 2.45% of the funds under management and if the trustees claw back the amount by cutting pensions, it will result in a cut that amounts to a little over a half of the average public sector pension cut of 4%.

While I realise the economic difficulties facing the country, it is clear that many public service pensioners have been unfairly targeted and are suffering a great deal of hardship. I hope that you will take the points raised in this letter into account and that you will work to ensure that the pension cut is reviewed and modified in the context of the forthcoming budget.

Yours sincerely,

SIGN HERE