**Issues of concern to public service pensioners in the run-up to the General Election**

* Contrary to popular perception, the average Public Service Pension is approximately €21,000 a year. Due to the FEMPI (Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest) legislation, from 2011 to date, substantial amounts were withheld from public service pensioners by means of the PSPR (Public Service Pension Reduction).
* The process of the gradual removal of the PSPR and the restoration of pensions began in 2016 and is not yet fully completed. It should be borne in mind that restoration does not mean restoring the pension lost, it means restoring the pension to the level it was at ten years ago prior to the reductions being applied. The loss itself (which is considerable) will never be “restored”.
* The restoration of the pensions has been very slow. Because the group affected is one whose members, by virtue of their age, have reduced life expectancy, the gradual phasing of Pension Restoration has a particularly negative impact. Over 4,000 public service pensioners die every year, that is over 36,000 so far, whose Pension Property rights have been eroded by Government – without compensation - and in contravention of the European Charter on Human Rights. It is time for FEMPI legislation to be removed from the statute books.
* Contrary to popular belief, public service pensioners do not have an automatic right to pension increases. Since the early 1970s, Public Service pensions were linked to the pay of their working peers. We have a legitimate expectation for that to continue.
* Unlike public sector workers, public sector pensioners have no negotiating rights. Labour Legislation covering those in employment does not apply to pensioners. Pensioners’ Representative Bodies, such as the Alliance of Retired Public Servants (with in excess of 140,000 affiliated members), must be involved as of right, in Pay/Pension negotiations.
* Access to negotiating machinery for pensioner representative bodies is a must. A substantial list of anomalies exist in relation to the treatment of retired public servants. Aside from the issues outlined above, the list includes; unequal treatment under the USC, means testing for the Household Benefit Package for those in the 66-70 age group and anomaly in the treatment of spouses in the application of restoration (PSPR).
* **When pensions devalue, it means less is spent in local communities!**