

POLICY MOTIONS ADOPTED
at
Annual General Meeting 14 May 2025

PENSION MATTERS

Parity

- 1 The incoming council and other members of the association liaise with members of the Oireachtas to ensure that the retention of parity of public service pensions is included in future Programmes for Government. **Midlands**
- 2 This AGM notes that it is Council policy to ensure that the parity-based framework, whereby pensions increase in line with pay, is maintained. In this regard this AGM directs the incoming Council to request that the parity-based framework be placed on the agenda of the Public Service Unions in upcoming future Pay/Pension negotiations. **Mid-West**
- 3 The Branch request Council to run a campaign with a view to ensure that the parity-based framework whereby public service pension increase in line with pay is enshrined in law. **North East**

Pension levy deductions

- 4 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Public Expenditure NDP Delivery & Reform to refund the excess Pension Levy, paid by Civil & Public Servants, who have served for more than 40 years, the amount of Pension Levy paid during the extra years when no benefits apply. **Galway**

Spouses and Children's Deductions

- 5 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Public Expenditure NDP Delivery & Reform to refund to Civil and Public Service Pensioners, who worked for over 40 years the Spouses and Children's pensions scheme (wops) deductions at the rate paid in the excess years. **Galway**

Pension slip information

- 6 This AGM requests Council to ask NSSO to include USC year to date on hard copy payslips. **Galway**

TAXATION MATTERS

Universal Social Charge (USC)

- 7 That the incoming Council seek to have the USC deductions being made from public service and occupational pensions ceased so as to remove the anomaly that prevails with the state pension. It is suggested that this anomaly in the treatment of pensions irrespective of the source be pursued in collaboration with other like-minded organisations to maximise pressure on the government. **An Post**
- 8 This AGM notes that Universal Social Charge was introduced as a charge on gross income and calls on RCPSA Council to seek to ensure that individuals in receipt of a gross income not exceeding €30,000 is exempt from USC. **Cork**

- 9 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Public Expenditure NDP Delivery & Reform to abolish the USC that currently applies to all Civil and Public Service Pensions. **Galway**

- 10 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Finance to restore the special USC treatment which pertained in 2011 and 2012 for the individuals over 70, as older people, in that they pay at a reduced rate, irrespective of the level of their income, OR, at least to increase the threshold of €60,000 which has been in place since the beginning of 2013, in line with consumer price index. **Galway**

- 11 That the incoming Council seek to have the USC deductions being made from Public Service and occupational pensions ceased. It is suggested that this action be pursued in consultation with other associations representing retired public sector workers. **Midlands**

- 12 The Branch requests that Council investigate the unfair imposition of Universal Social Charge on Irish Public Servants pensions and if necessary, seek legal advice to challenge same. **North East**

Tax Credits

- 13 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Finance to increase the Age Tax Credit from €245 to €1,000 per annum per individual and to be Index linked thereafter. **Galway**

Capital Acquisition Tax (CAT)

- 14 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Finance to restore the exemption from Capital Acquisition Tax to the levels which pertained from 01 January, 2009 to 7 April, 2009 and reduce the rate from 33% to 20%. **Galway**

Other

- 15 That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Council to ask the Minister for Finance to ensure that the tax applied to the allowance portion paid to retired civil servants should be tax exempt similar to the position prior to 2015. **Sligo**

SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS

Living Alone Allowance

- 16 That this Annual General Meeting instructs the incoming Council to seek the extension of the Living Alone Allowance to retired public and civil servants (pre 1995) who are single and currently ineligible for that allowance. Given the predominantly low public service pension incomes on which these pensioners are dependent, it is high time, especially in this era of high inflation that their exclusion from this allowance be removed immediately and that they should be afforded a very basic application of equal treatment in respect of this entitlement. **Dublin**

- 17 That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Council to ask the relevant Minister to increase the Living Alone Allowance means test to €600 weekly. This should also apply to the Fuel Allowance Scheme as well. **Sligo**

State Pension

- 18 That the incoming Council examine, with a view to making representations with the relevant Government Department(s) to review, the situation where pre '75 civil servants who availed of the "marriage gratuity" in the early 1980s now find that they are ineligible to receive an old-age pension from the state in their own right, and to raise this issue which is a serious form of discrimination against vulnerable female members. **Kildare**
- 19 The Branch instructs Council to demand that full Old Age Pension increases be given to Old Age Pension recipients who for differing reasons do not receive full Old Age Pension Benefit. **North East**

Dental and Optical

- 20 That the incoming Council seek to have dental and optical benefits extended to public service sector pensioners who paid Class D PRSI contributions. Options could include a multiple of Class D contributions being equivalent to one Class A contribution. It is suggested that this equality in treatment be pursued in collaboration with other like-minded organisations to maximise pressure on the Minister for Social Protection.
- An Post**

General benefits

- 21 This AGM directs the incoming Council to address the anomaly whereby all retired Civil Servants do not enjoy the same benefits as those who are in receipt of a State Pension.
- Mid-West**
- 22 The Branch request the National Executive to set up a sub committee to explore and simplify the range of benefits for retired civil servants. **North East**

HEALTH BENEFITS

Medical Cards

- 23 This AGM instructs the Council to seek an increase in assessed income thresholds, for qualification purposes, pending the restoration of full medical cards for pensioners over 70 years of age. **Donegal/North West**
- 24 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Health to award Medical Cards to all persons over 70 years of age without them being subjected to a means test. **Galway**
- ~~25 This AGM directs the incoming Council to make it a priority that Medical Cards are granted to everyone over the age of 70 years without a means test. **Mid-West** This Motion fell when Motion 24 was adopted.~~
- 26 That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Council to lobby the Ministers for Finance and Health to ensure that the means tested assessment for medical cards for

those over 66 years of age is taken at net pay similar to anyone under 66 years of age.
Sligo

Long Term Illness Scheme

- 27 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Health to include all long-term illnesses in the Long-term Payment Scheme. At the present time Cancer, Osteoporosis and Peripheral Neuropathy are excluded, although they are deemed all long-term illnesses by the Medical Profession. **Galway**
- 28 This AGM requests the Council to seek to have certain long-term illnesses such as Cancer, Osteoporosis and Peripheral Neuropathy covered under the "Long Term Illness Scheme". Under this Scheme if you have certain long-term conditions, including leukaemia, you can get free drugs, medicine and surgical equipment for your treatment. However, long-term illnesses such as Cancer, Osteoporosis and Peripheral Neuropathy are not covered. **Mid-West**

Nursing Home Care Scheme (Fair Deal)

- 29 This AGM requests Council to ask the Minister for Health to revisit the Nursing Home Care Scheme (Fair Deal Scheme) with a view to reducing the transfer period of reckoning of Business or Farm from five years to three years and to reduce the 7.5 % levy on own home from three years to two years. **Galway**

ACCESS TO SERVICES

- 30 Currently a Public Services Card are not acceptable as a form of photographic identification with financial and other institutions. This is problem experienced by many of our members. This AGM calls on RCPSA Council to seek a solution to this issue.
Cork
- 31 This AGM acknowledges that individuals with mobility problems experience difficulties accessing their funds from ATM machines, financial institutions retail outlets etc. The AGM calls on Council to raise cognisance of this problem with financial institutions, retail outlets, and make representations in appropriate forum to address this problem.
Cork
- 32 That this Annual General Meeting calls on the Council to liaise with all relevant Govt Depts and Agencies to request the provision of an office based customer service for older service users in addition to the online services. Some retired staff do not have access to online facilities and are continuously told to use the online service when they make contact with any Govt Dept. It is noted that the European regulation of Freedom of Choice should apply. **Sligo**

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

- 33 That the Council provides a progress report on: a) what actions it has taken during 2024 to deliver on Article 3(e) of the Constitution dealing with the provision of "enhanced benefits for members across areas such as various insurance types, purchasing discount schemes, etc", and b) what plans it has in place to fulfil this Object during 2025 and beyond. **An Post**

- 34 The Council provides at the AGM a written progress report on what actions it has taken during the year under review to obtain enhanced benefits for members in areas such as insurance and discount schemes. **Midlands**
- 35 This AGM instructs the RCPSA Council to provide annual updates on policy motions passed at AGM. **Donegal**
- 36 This Annual General Meeting calls on the RCPSA Council to provide the technology necessary to enable broadcast facilities for Annual General Meetings in which members who, otherwise are unable to attend, could still participate in. **Dublin**
- 37 This Annual General Meeting calls on the RCPSA Council to provide Branch Officers with professional training in data protection and thus foster better and safer communication between Branch Officers and the members. **Dublin**
- 38 This AGM requests Council to appoint one of its members as the custodian of all records of the RCPSA Association since its foundation in 1945. **Galway**
- 39 The incoming council progress the feasibility of an alliance with a public sector union or other retired association to enhance the negotiating capability of the Association and the provision of benefits to members. **Midlands**
- 40 That this AGM:
- (a) Deplores the failure of the Council to be even able to accurately give branches the numbers of members in their branch and their contact details and, that the Council is unable at this time, seven years' after the introduction of the current GDPR legislation, to circulate to Branch Secretaries a Branch Secretary a list of names and contact details because of the need to complete a privacy policy, and:
- (b) Directs the Council to prepare and circulate to Branch Secretaries:
- A) complete list of members, classified by branch, by no branch and by dual membership; and
- B) A complete list of members and in each branch and their contact details. **Wexford**