

Llythyr Enghreifftiol at Nicky Young, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol tros Addysg

Os hoffech drafod rhai o'r materion yn y llythyr mae croeso i chi gysylltu.

Os yn bosib, addaswch y llythyr i'w wneud yn fwy personol i chi oherwydd mae tuedd gan rai gwleidyddion i ddiystyru gohebiaeth sydd yn gopi o ohebiaeth arall. Soniwch am eich sefyllfa, e.e. athro neu ddarlithydd, hyd eich gyrfa, eich teimladau am y newidiadau bydd yn golygu'r angen i weithio am gyfnod hirach, ac ati.

Dear Secretary of State,

Some of the Westminster Government's changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme will be very damaging. I urge you to reconsider some matters in particular that would help safeguard the position of individual scheme members and also help retain teachers and lecturers within the profession. I believe that some relatively minor changes would be valuable to all concerned.

The change to the Normal Pension Age will place many of us in a very vulnerable position and will, in my opinion, be unsustainable. The change reflects a lack of understanding of the demands of our role and already, before implementation, is affecting morale within the profession. It will also affect recruitment into the profession, making it more difficult for newly qualified teachers to find teaching posts.

Reducing the Normal Pension Age to 65 would go a long way to addressing members' concerns.

I urge you to ensure that future contributions to the scheme will be based on the requirements of the scheme rather than the Treasury's need to get to grips with the country's debts.

I feel that the information about accrued rights has been misleading. The Government has announced that scheme members will be able to access all their accrued rights in the current pre-2015 pension scheme under the terms of that pension scheme, but this is not strictly true.

I should be able to access that pension in full when I am 60 years old. However, I will only be able to access that pension by retiring or having a break in service and, if I return to work, the pension will be subject to the rules of abatement. I will therefore, not be able to earn to my full potential in order to take full advantage of the second pension scheme. I believe that the Government has not ensured that we have received clear information about the implications of the changes.

In future many teachers in my position will have to work beyond our current Normal Pension Age (which for most teachers at present is 60 years). Throughout the pension negotiations the Government has consistently compared public sector and private sector schemes. The rules of abatement do not apply in private sector schemes and I urge you to reconsider this unfair rule. You have agreed not to include it in the new 2015 teachers' pension scheme and this appears to be a tacit acceptance that the rule is unfair and unnecessary. I believe that during the transition period when members will have more than one pension scheme you should also suspend the abatement rules for the pre-2015 Pension Schemes.

Our pension is an important part of our remuneration. While accepting some of the changes that the Government will be introducing I believe that the issues of pension

age, contribution rates and abatement are crucial and must be addressed before the revised scheme is introduced.

I believe that it will be difficult for most ordinary members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme to grasp all the complexities of having more than one scheme running at the same time. The Government has a responsibility to ensure that we, ordinary members of the scheme, are well informed and that information is provided in a clear unambiguous way.

I hope you will be able to consider these important issues and how they affect individuals, like myself, and the profession as a whole.

Yours faithfully,