



Give retired workers a voice.

Retired people in Ireland have endured over a decade of attacks on their pensions, and are facing further assaults on the very idea of a decent occupational pension. Even the right to retire at 66 is constantly undermined by Governments and employers.

The Network of Public Sector Pensioners' Associations in the Senior Citizens' Parliament believe that pensions are deferred wages, hard won by long struggles of workers and their trade unions in many cases. But, deals between companies and trade unions have resulted in significant and permanent changes to retired employees' pension entitlements. Yet, long-term contributors to those schemes, themselves loyal trade unionists, are, by law, totally excluded from those deals. Because most retirees from the public and civil service are denied the title of 'worker' they are excluded from the services of the Workplace Relations Commission which may only consider a pension grievance within six months of an individual's retirement.

This has resulted in a serious loss of income among Irish Shipping, Aer Lingus, Dublin Airport Authority and ESB pensioners to name a few. The cumulative effect has been a descent into pension poverty for many retired workers.

But a Bill which has been before the Oireachtas for 3 years would change that and redress the deep injustice inflicted on all retired workers

RETIRED EMPLOYEES ARE NOT RETIRED VOTERS!

REASONS TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION FOR RETIRED WORKERS

The *Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021* finally gives a voice to retired workers over what happens to their occupational pension schemes after they have left their employment. At present, thousands of retired employees, who have toiled for decades in private or semi-state companies or as public or civil servants, have been faced with cuts to their pensions with little notice and absolutely no right to representation at the negotiating table.

But this Bill would change that.

If supported by the Dáil and Seanad, it would give retired workers and their representative associations the right to access the WRC when their benefits from occupational schemes are threatened or reduced. At present, if such cuts are made more than six months after an employee's retirement, they're denied access to the WRC.

This Bill would change that.

The Bill will give rights to retired workers' associations to be consulted when talks between trade unions and employers are capable of directly affecting their occupational pension schemes. At present, retired workers are not consulted in industrial relations negotiations that may negatively impact their pensions.

This Bill would change that.

Currently, workers who've retired for 6 months or more together with their representative associations may not access the WRC because the Industrial Relations Act says they're not a worker in a trade dispute. That law was passed in 1946 when newborn males were expected to live to 60.5 years of age and females to 62.4. The law is anachronistic, ageist and discriminatory. Public representatives need to amend it with Deputy Brid Smith's Bill.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL.



CONTACTS:

Sue Shaw, Pension Spokesperson, Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament.

John Nugent, National Federation of Pensioners' Association.

Eileen Sweeney, Retired Aviation Staff.

Joe Little, RTÉ Retired Staff Association. rteresa2018@gmail.com