

CIRCULAR

Circular No. 02/108/Sup

Date: 17 June 2002

To: Secretaries of Divisions and Local Associations - **FOR ACTION**

Dear Colleague

PENSION BENEFITS FOR UNMARRIED PARTNERS

Divisions and associations will be aware that the Union has been seeking a change in the current provisions of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) to enable benefits to be payable to partners of unmarried contributors where there is a financially interdependent relationship. This is part of a claim for major improvements to the TPS that has been submitted by the Teachers' Panel of the Teachers' Superannuation Working Party, which draws on significant changes that have been made to the pension arrangements in the Civil Service.

Mr James Purnell, the Labour Member of Parliament for Stalybridge and Hyde has tabled the following Early Day Motion number 1135:

'That this house welcomes the provision in the new Civil Service Pension Scheme for long-term survivor benefits for a financially inter-dependent partner and provisions in members' pension schemes for the same; further welcomes the reviews undertaken by other public service pension schemes to include unmarried partners; but notes that none has yet made any such provisions; further notes that over 85 per cent of private schemes provide for unmarried partners; recognises that the proportion of unmarried couples in the United Kingdom is increasing; believes that it is an issue of basic fairness and protection that unmarried couples should receive the same benefits as married couples should one partner die; and calls upon the Government to ensure that public sector pension schemes are amended accordingly to provide for long-term survivor benefits for financially inter-dependent partners whether married or not.'

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The EDM, which the Union and the TUC fully supports, has already attracted a large number of signature and John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, has written to MPs asking them to support it. We would, therefore, ask divisions and associations to draw the attention of MPs in their areas to the Early Day Motion urging them to support it also.

Yours sincerely

DOUG McAVOY
General Secretary

STEVE SINNOTT
Deputy General Secretary

BARRY FAWCETT
Assistant Secretary
Salaries, Superannuation, Conditions of
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