

# Petition D Day

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect-our-military-pensions/>

**The petition is non-political. It is about fairness to those who served**

**The Petition got off to a great start on Monday 6 December averaging 100 signatures each day. The total number of signatures in the first week was a grand total of 750.**

**With your help we are aiming for many more.**

## The Petition



1. **Disabled double amputee 28 year old Corporal £587,000 by age 70.**
2. **40 year old Sergeant Royal Marines £212,000 by age 85.**
3. **40 year old Squadron Leader £319,000 by age 85.**
4. **34-year-old wife of a staff sergeant killed in Afghanistan £750,000 worse off.**

**(Figures courtesy of the Forces Pension Society)**

The figures show the amounts lost because of the change. We believe the change is not fair. It will not protect those vulnerable ex service personnel with poor health. who have served their country well.

**Military Pensioners rely on the Government to uphold the Military Covenant to treat them fairly. If Government wish to treat members of the Armed Forces fairly then they should act accordingly and reinstate the link to RPI.**

**The Pensions Minister, Mr Webb MP, backed down regarding forcing private sector pensions to use the CPI rate.**

**So why not the Armed Forces pensions?**

**Mr Webb MP told MPs that the Coalition has listened to concerns about Government forcing private pension schemes to switch from RPI inflation to CPI, and decided not to go ahead.**

**It appears that the minister was concerned about the backlash!**

We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to:  
 Realign the annual cost of living adjustment of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) to that of the Retail Prices Index (RPI). A vast majority of the Armed Forces retire at or before they are 40. This puts the members in the unique position of seeking a new career normally at the bottom of the ladder with their chances very much diminished compared to those starting at a younger age. Over the years the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has taken into account all factors affecting pay including the use of RPI as an indicator of inflation, therefore changing to CPI effects long term recommendations given in the past by the AFPRB. A change to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not take account of the unique needs of the Armed Forces as it fails to take account of housing costs which includes mortgage, rent, council tax, insurance etc. The magnitude of the losses involved is quite staggering. in all of the examples given here a change in indexation to CPI would hit individuals extremely hard,



To help make the petition grow please pass this information on to friends and college's. Support from both ex military and none military personnel for the petition is important as we believe the pension is a strong part of the Military Covenant which our Government has agreed to uphold.

## Top Brass Urge Government Rethink On Pensions

A letter to the Prime Minister was hand delivered to Downing Street bearing the names of five former Chiefs of the Defence Staff, other senior military figures and Honorary Members of the Forces Pension Society calling for a rethink on military pensions.

The letter was composed by the Forces Pension Society (FPS) a non-profit organisation which represents the pension interests of the wider Armed Forces community, signatories include: Admiral the Lord Boyce, Field Marshal the Lord Inge, Marshal of the RAF the Lord Craig, General the Lord Guthrie, General the Lord Walker, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, Admiral Sir Brian Brown, Lieutenant General Sir Robin Ross, Mrs Sara Jones and The Baroness Dean, Honorary Member signatories included: Martin Bell, Kate Adie, and Joanna Lumley. The letter calls on the government to reconsider the change in indexation from RPI to CPI

for the Armed Forces, it points out that they will be disproportionately disadvantaged in comparison to people working in the rest of the public sector, because military pensions start to pay out at a younger age, FPS suspects this detail could have been overlooked. The letter also calls on the government to stop the practice of confiscating the pensions of military widows when they re-marry, pointing out that the cost of doing so would be a drop in the ocean (a fraction of 1%) compared to the savings which the government stands to make from the change in indexation. Earlier in the day, at a lunch held in the Houses of Parliament, the President of the Forces Pension Society, General Sir Roger Wheeler GCB CBE, former Chief of the General Staff, reiterated these representations and said that the armed forces was not looking for special treatment but fair treatment.

### Current Rate CPI/RPI

The Office for National Statistics reported that the official measure of inflation, the consumer prices index (CPI), hit 3.3pc last month, rather than sticking at October's 3.2pc rate as analysts were forecasting.

The retail price index (RPI), which includes more housing costs and is the benchmark for many wage deals, likewise rose unexpectedly to 4.7pc from 4.5pc the previous month.

Housing costs includes council tax, house insurance, house maintenance, mortgage and rent

**While the mortgage rates are low the difference between RPI and CPI is bound to be less.**

**Increases in the mortgage rate will increase the difference and members of the Armed Forces would be stuck on the lower rate (CPI).**

**IS THAT FAIR ?**

# FAIRNESS

The Government has implemented alterations to the Forces Pension Scheme in order to help deal with the budget deficit as its single greatest economic challenge.

It has stated that “unavoidably and tough decisions are required.” The Government has affirmed that its approach is a commitment to “fairness” and makes clear that the burden of deficit reduction will have to be “shared.”

It has also declared that “the most vulnerable in our society will be protected.” Is it fair to then:~

- Alter the Forces Pension Scheme without consultation?
- Remove the link with the Retail Price Index (RPI)?
- Remove the link to the Cost of Housing ?

Linking the annual cost of living allowance to the CPI will decrease the value of the pension year on year because the CPI does not take into account the cost of housing which importantly includes mortgages, rent, council tax, maintenance and house insurance. This is very often the single largest item of any household budget and will have mammoth long term consequences for Forces personnel.

## Armed Forces Pay Review Body

Over the years the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) has taken into account all factors affecting pay including the link with the Retail Price Index (RPI). The link to RPI has always been embedded as the recognised link. The link is more important in respect of Forces personnel since their pensions are usually allocated and set when individuals are much younger than those in other occupations.

This has the effect of having a much greater impact than in any other occupational pension.

## Military Covenant

Changing from RPI to CPI without consultation we believe  
is against the Military Covenant.

