



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Richard Harrington MP  
Minister for Business and Industry  
1 Victoria Street  
London, SW1H 0ET

February 2019

Dear Mr Harrington,

**Civil Nuclear Constabulary's Pensions Age**

As the Minister responsible for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC), we, the undersigned, urge you to convene a meeting with BEIS, HMT, and the Cabinet Office and all interested parties to expedite progress on resolving an issue of urgent national security - the CNC's pensions age. You will be well aware from your regular engagement with the CNC, Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA) and with the Civil Nuclear Police Federation (CNPFF) that ongoing uncertainty is undermining the effectiveness and future viability of the CNC.

As Members of Parliament with civil nuclear sites in our constituencies, we thank you for your early recognition that changing the current CNC pension age from 60 to the 67/68 as per the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 would pose insurmountable difficulties for serving officers and for the CNC itself. We also welcome your unwavering engagement with HMT and the Cabinet Office in seeking a sensible and effective resolution. The matter is clearly being taken seriously by Government as demonstrated by the constructive engagement that has taken place with CNC, CNPF and CNPA. However, the issue is becoming increasingly pressing for both national security and for the welfare and wellbeing of the CNC's 1250 officers, many of whom are our constituents.

The deterioration in turnover of CNC officers has now risen steadily towards 12%, with officers leaving for other police forces or for more secure civilian employment where the retirement age is attainable. Recruitment numbers have halved as applicants become aware of the impending increase in the retirement age to 67/68.

Such a situation cannot continue without serious and potentially immediate consequences for national security as it becomes steadily more difficult for the CNC to fulfil its mission of protecting the UK's civil nuclear assets at home or in transit and to supplement the resources of armed Home Department police as part of the Strategic Armed Policing Reserve and Operation Temperer. At a time when the CNC's role in national security is increasing, the knock-on effects from an unrealistic retirement age must be addressed urgently.

As you will appreciate from the attached signatures this is not a party-political issue but one which has unqualified support across the House. While we fully understand that your Department must be under severe pressure at this time but we would welcome the swift arrangement of the promised meeting between all parties, including the CNC, CNPA and the CNPF, to make progress towards a resolution to this urgent matter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia Gibson

Patricia Gibson MP  
Member of Parliament for North Ayrshire and Arran

Trudy Harrison

Trudy Harrison MP  
Member of Parliament for Copeland

Mike Hill

Mike Hill MP  
Member of Parliament for Hartlepool

Jamie Stone

Jamie Stone MP  
Member of Parliament for Caithness,  
Sutherland and Easter Ross

Martin Whitfield

Martin Whitfield MP  
Member of Parliament for East Lothian

CC: The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer; The Rt Hon David Lidington CBE MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office