

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2022



Head Office, Grosvenor House,  
125 High Street, Croydon CR0 9XP

020 8688 8418  
enquiries@cspa.co.uk  
www.cspa.co.uk

**General secretary: Lisa Ray**  
lisa.ray@cspa.co.uk  
020 8688 8418

**Changes of address or other information**  
enquiries@cspa.co.uk or 020 8688 8418

**Membership enquiries: Marion McAuliffe**  
marion.mcauliffe@cspa.co.uk  
020 8688 8418

Freepost RTRX-RKUY-SELT

# Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022

The 68th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance will be held in the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwick CV8 2LD on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October 2022. All paid-up members are entitled to attend and will be admitted on production of their membership cards.

Members are advised to bring their copies of the following from issues of *The Pensioner*:

- Winter 2019 Issue 279 (report of proceedings of the 2019 AGM)
- Summer 2020 Issue 281 (Annual Report 2019; Annual Report 2020 was adopted at 2021 online event)
- Summer 2022 Issue 289 (Annual Report 2021)
- Autumn 2022 Issue 290 (Agenda for 2022 AGM and pen pictures of candidates standing for national Alliance elections to be held at the AGM).



## Report and Recommendations of the Standing Orders Committee for the Agenda and Conduct of Business (Standing Orders Committee Report Number 1)

### PART 1

A. The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) met on 13 July 2022, reviewed all matters proper for the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the Alliance Standing Orders (Appendix 1 of the Alliance Rules & Constitution and also attached as Appendix 1 to Part 1 of this Report) and recommends that the business of the Annual General Meeting be grouped under the following general headings:

1. Opening of the AGM by the Councillor Samantha Cooke, Town Mayor of Kenilworth TBC
2. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks
3. Appointment of Tellers and Scrutineers
4. Report of the Standing Orders Committee (see Part 1)
5. Adoption of the Report of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 and 10 October 2019 (see insert with *The Pensioner* Winter 2020 Issue 283)

### 6. Any Matters Arising

7. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2019 (see insert with *The Pensioner* Summer 2020 Issue 281) and Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2021 (see insert with *The Pensioner* Summer 2022 Issue 289)

### 8. Introduction of New Candidates

### 9. Motions (see Part 3)

### 10. Guest Speakers

### 11. Elections (see Part 2)

- (a) Officers
- (b) Members of the Executive Council
- (c) Standing Orders Committee

### 12. Appointments for approval

- (a) President
- (b) National Treasurer
- (c) Editor

### 13. Vote of Thanks

B. The SOC was prepared to give the benefit of doubt to some motions from Groups even though, strictly speaking, they did not contain clear or direct instructions.

The SOC also amended reference to Conference and Meeting to AGM, and Executive Committee to Executive Council; and NEC to EC, where required, in motions. The SOC would also like to remind Groups of the guidance given in Appendix IV of the latest version of the Advice to Groups in England and Wales on the wording of motions and that they can always seek advice on the wording of motions from the SOC or the General Secretary before submitting them. The SOC appreciated that some Groups took up this offer, which has aided good business.

**C.** Where a number of motions are similar but not close enough to warrant their incorporation into a Composite motion, the SOC would construct suitable Comprehensive motion, designed to embody the main points of the constituent motions. However, there are no Comprehensive motions for the 2022 AGM.

**D.** Groups and Branches, whose motions stand alone (i.e. not linked together with similar motions from other Groups and Branches as Composites or Comprehensives), should ensure that they have seconders for their motions or they will fall automatically without further debate.

**E.** Having considered the motions submitted for debate, the SOC was satisfied that, should its recommendations be accepted and members attending the 2022 AGM continue to demonstrate their traditional levels of co-operation, all business should be concluded satisfactorily. The SOC again reminds delegates that there is no requirement to take up the full quota of time allowed under Standing Order No 17.

**F.** The SOC recommends that the AGM be in formal session during the following hours:

**Wednesday 12 October 2022**  
(afternoon session) - 2.00 pm to 5.20 pm

**Thursday 13 October 2022**  
(morning session) - 9 am to 12.30 pm

**Thursday 13 October 2022**  
(afternoon session) - 1.15 pm to 3.15 pm

**G.** The SOC recommends that the motions be taken in the order listed.

**H.** In view of the fact that no Annual General Meetings have been held over the past two years, SOC has agreed that relevant motions received would benefit from debate and no motions received a B marking this year.

**I.** If, during debate on a motion, a proposal is made that the motion be remitted to the Executive Council, the Chairman will ensure that, before debate on the substantive motion is resumed, the issue of remission is immediately resolved, with only the proposer of the substantive motion given the opportunity to comment on whether his/her Group agrees with remission, before a vote is taken on the issue of remission. If the AGM votes for remission then there is no further debate on the substantive motion; if, however, the AGM rejects remission, debate resumes on the substantive motion.

**J.** In order to ensure all the Motions listed are debated, the SOC recommends the following timetable:

#### Wednesday Afternoon

2.00 pm - 2.15 pm	Agenda Item 1
2.15 pm - 2.30 pm	Agenda Item 2
2.30 pm - 2.50 pm	Agenda Items 3-6
2.50 pm - 3.10 pm	Agenda Item 7,8,9
3.10 pm - 3.20 pm	New candidates/election results
3.20 pm - 3.40 pm	Presentation* from HMS16/CSPA
3.40 pm - 5.10 pm	Part 3.1 Constitutional Amendments
5.10 pm - 5.20 pm	Presentation* from Charity for Civil Servants
5.30pm – 6.00 pm	Optional session: GDPR – Affinity Resolutions

#### Thursday Morning

9.00 am - 9.15 am	Presentation* from O&R
9.15 am -10.00 am	Part 3.A Other Alliance Business
10.00 am - 10.45 am	Part 3 B.1 State Pensions

**K.** The SOC recommends that election results are announced as soon as possible after the collection of ballot papers and that delegates are asked not to complete ballot papers until an announcement has been made by the Chairman, who will ensure that delegates are given at least 15 minutes' notice before ballot papers are due to be completed and returned.

**L.** Notice of intention to move Reference Back or to ask questions on any paragraph of the Annual Report must be in the hands of the General Secretary by Monday 12 September 2022.

**M.** Notice of intention to move Reference Back on any part of this SOC Report must also be in the hands of the General Secretary by Monday 12 September 2022. Groups and Branches are also advised that the SOC will be considering written requests for References Back in advance of the

AGM and that, if any of those References Back are accepted, appropriate details will be covered in written Supplementary SOC Reports to the AGM.

**N.** In accordance with paragraph 13 of the Alliance Standing Orders, all Emergency motions must arrive, by hard copy, at CSPA HQ by 2.00 pm on Friday 7 October 2022.

**O.** In order to allow delegates, sponsored representatives and members to sit together, all hand voting (raising a laminated card) at the AGM will be conducted by the raising of appropriately customised, coloured and laminated A5 cards provided only to one delegate representing their group upon registration for the AGM. The card must be returned at the end of the AGM.

**P.** The Chairman will allow delegates five minutes to return to their seats before the collection of any cards for a card vote. (Card votes are conducted using a voting slip upon which is printed the voting strength of the group concerned.) Delegates are also advised to leave their card votes, laminated voting cards and ballot papers with either a sponsored representative or member from their Group/Branch, if they intend to leave the AGM venue for more than a few minutes.

**Q.** In line with the procedures adopted at previous AGMs, delegates are reminded that the six seats on both sides of the central aisle in the very front row be kept clear, to be used only by delegates wishing to speak in the extant debate (delegates for the motion to the left of the aisle facing the Chairman and delegates against the motion to the right of aisle facing the Chairman).

**R.** In line with the practice adopted in previous years, the Standing Orders Committee also reminds Groups and Branches that, unless specific and exceptional authority has been received from the Chairman, serving members of the Executive Council shall not be permitted to move motions on behalf of Groups or Branches.

**S.** In response to questions raised by delegates at recent AGMs, the SOC thought that it would be useful to remind, again, all those attending the 2022 AGM of the Rules [Items 7(g) (i) and (ii) of the Alliance Rules and

### Part 3 B.2 Public Service Pensions

10.45 am - 11.30 am Part 3 B.3 Cost of Living Crisis

11.30 am - 11.40 am Presentation\* from NPC

11.40 am - 12.10 am Part 3 C Digital/Financial Exclusion

12.10 am - 12.30 pm Part 3.D Health

12.30 pm - 1.15 pm LUNCH

### Thursday Afternoon

1.15 pm - 2.00 pm Part 3 E Social Care

2.00 pm - 2.10 pm Presentation\* from Carers UK

2.10 pm - 2.40 pm Part 3 F General

2.40 pm - 3.00 pm Guillotined Motions

3.00 pm - 3.15 pm Vote of Thanks

3.15 pm Close of AGM

\* There will be presentations on: Organisation & Recruitment (O&R) from Mike Lawler, Secretary (Organisation); HMS16 on new website/database; Carers UK on support for older carers; National Pensioners Convention on the cost of living crisis; and the Charity for Civil Servants on work with former/retired civil servants.

Constitution] covering voting by show of hands and by card at the AGM:

■ Voting shall be by show of hands or, where either the Chairman shall so decide or, at least, 20 or more present so demand, by card vote. In this event, accredited representatives from Branches and Groups shall be entitled to use voting slips representing the total members of their Branch or Group, this to be determined on the basis of the number of members shown by

the Alliance's membership records to be resident in the stated area of the Branch or Group on 30 June of the current year. The decision regarding a card vote may be taken either before a vote is taken or upon the declaration of the result of a vote by show of hands.

**Roy Lewis ( Chairman, SOC)**

**Eileen Turner**

**Keith Yallop**

**Lisa Ray (Secretary)**

**13 July 2022**

## APPENDIX 1 – STANDING ORDERS

### Order of Business

1. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be dealt with in accordance with the Agenda and with the timetable included in the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

### Motions

2. A motion must be in the affirmative and refer to only one subject.
3. Amendments to motions tabled shall not be accepted.
4. Motions shall be given the prefix A, \*[B, C], D or X which will determine whether a debate is required, as follows:
- 'A' indicating that the motion requires a decision**
  - 'B' indicating that the motion is in line with existing Alliance policy and is accepted without debate**
  - 'C' indicating that the motion would reverse Alliance policy determined at the previous year's Annual or Special Meeting in that year and is not for debate**
  - 'D' indicating that the motion could be dealt with by correspondence and is not for debate**
  - 'X' indicating that the motion is out of order**
- \* Because there has not been an Annual General Meeting for the past two years, prefixes [B,C] will not be used in 2022.*
5. Motions shall be taken in the order recommended by the Standing Orders Committee.
6. Any motion not moved when it is called shall be considered to be lost and may not be carried forward.

7. A motion must be seconded immediately after the mover's speech. If there is no seconder, the motion falls.

8. Speakers shall confine their remarks to supporting or opposing the proposition under discussion.

9. A motion once lost may not be moved again during the same Annual General Meeting.

10. No speaker may speak more than once on any motion except in the following circumstances:

- (a) The seconder of a motion may reserve their speech until later in the discussion, provided the seconding is purely formal and they declare this reservation.
- (b) The mover of the original motion shall be entitled to reply at the end of the discussion, before the motion is put to the vote.
- (c) A speaker who considers that they have been misunderstood shall be allowed, at the discretion of the Chairman, to make an explanation.
- (d) A member who has already spoken may rise on a point of order.

11. A motion may, with the consent of the meeting, be remitted to the Executive Council (EC) or withdrawn.

12. Any motion which cannot be taken because of time constraints shall automatically be referred to the EC.

### Emergency motions

13. An emergency motion, which must be in writing, shall deal with urgent business which had arisen since the final date for submission of motions to the AGM, which was by 2pm on the first Friday in July. Such motions must be in the hands of the General

Secretary not less than three working days before the time set for the meeting.

### Composite motions

14. The Standing Orders Committee shall have power to composite motions in order to expedite discussion. Any composite motion on the Agenda shall be regarded as comprising all motions within the composite.

15. A composite motion shall be moved by the representative from the Branch or Group first named in the Standing Orders Committee Report as sponsor of the motion.

16. Only the mover of the composite motion shall have the right of reply to the debate.

### Speeches

17. The following time limits on speeches shall be observed. The mover of a motion, and the Officer or Executive Council member commenting on it, may speak for not more than five minutes. All other speeches, including that made by the mover on their right of reply to the debate, shall be limited to not more than two minutes.

### Other Matters

18. The following shall be treated as amendments, the mover of which shall have no right of reply:

- (a) that consideration of the question be postponed or adjourned;
- (b) that the question be referred to a committee or sub-committee;
- (c) that the debate be adjourned;
- (d) that the question be now put;
- (e) that the meeting do now adjourn;
- (f) references back of any part or section of the Annual Report or of the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

19. Next business, if moved and seconded, shall be put to the meeting forthwith.

20. Any Alliance member may raise a point of order at any time. If a point of order is raised, the business in progress at the time shall be proceeded with until the Chairman has given a ruling. The Chairman may first



consult the Standing Orders Committee. The Chairman's ruling shall be final and not open to discussion.

21. The Chairman may refuse a motion 'That the question be now put'. This motion may not be discussed but the mover of the original motion shall be entitled to reply.

22. Any member who desires to challenge the Chairman's ruling may move 'That the Chairman now vacate the Chair'. This must be supported by six members and, to be passed, shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present.

### Voting

- 23. (a) Voting at meetings shall be in accordance with Rule 7(g) of the Constitution.
- (b) In view of the disturbance which takes place immediately before the time limit for election votes is announced, a period shall be set aside for the casting of the votes to be completed, during which no debate takes place.

### Standing Orders

24. These Standing Orders or the appropriate part of these Standing Orders shall be suspended if a motion 'That Standing Orders (excepting Standing Order Rule 22) be suspended to permit ...' be carried by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of accredited Branch and Group representatives present and entitled to vote.

25. No amendment to these Standing Orders shall be valid unless passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the votes cast at a General Meeting.

## PART 2 – NOMINATIONS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Brian Sturtevant	Executive Council

<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Don Makepeace*	Bath & District
	Bedford & District
	Bournemouth & District
	Crawley & District
	East Devon
	Gloucestershire
	Harrow
	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Scotland Branch
	Sheffield & District
	Southend-on-Sea & District
	Teesside
	Twickenham & District
	Worthing & District
	Wirral

<b>VICE-CHAIR</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Linda Ridgers-Waite*	Bath & District
	Bedford & District
	Bournemouth & District
	Crawley & District
	East Devon
	Harrow
	Lewisham, East Southwark & District
	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Scotland Branch
	Sheffield & District
	Southend-on-Sea & District
	Twickenham & District
	Wirral

<b>SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION)</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
No nominations	

<b>SECRETARY (ORGANISATION)</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Michael Lawler*	East Devon
	Gloucestershire
	Manchester & Bolton
	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Sheffield & District
	Twickenham & District
	Wirral
	Worthing & District

<b>REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	

<b>NORTH EAST REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Andy Aitchison*	Harrogate & District
	Sheffield & District
	Teesside

<b>NORTH WEST REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Harry Brett*	Liverpool & District
	Manchester & Bolton
	Chester & District
	Wirral

<b>EASTERN REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Sue Hennah-Barham	Cambridgeshire & District

<b>WALES REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
No nominations	

<b>MIDLANDS REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
No nominations	



<b>SOUTH WEST REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Les Calder*	Bath & District
	Bristol
	East Devon
	Weymouth & District

<b>WESSEX REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Tony Hall*	Bournemouth & District
	Winchester & District

<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Greg Mountain*	Crawley & District

<b>GREATER LONDON REGION</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Dr David Owen*	Croydon
	Harrow
	Lewisham East Southwark & District
	Twickenham & District

<b>NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Charles Cochrane*	Bedford & District
	Crawley & District
	East Devon
	Harrow
	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Sheffield & District
	Southend-on-Sea & District
	Wirral

Les Priestley*	Bedford & District
	Crawley & District
	East Devon
	Manchester & Bolton
	North Wales
	Sheffield & District
	Teesside
	Wirral

<b>NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Richard West*	Bedford & District
	East Devon
	Gloucestershire
	Norfolk
	Sheffield & District

<b>STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/ BRANCH</b>
Roy Lewis*	Bedford & District
	Crawley & District
	Inner London
	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Scotland Branch
	Sheffield & District
	Wirral

Eileen Turner*	Bedford & District
	Birmingham & District
	Crawley & District
	Gloucestershire
	Inner London
	Lewisham East Southwark
	Norfolk
	North Wales
	Scotland Branch
	Sheffield & District
	Wirral

Keith Yallop*	Bedford & District
	Crawley & District
	East Devon
	Harrogate & District
	Inner London
	North Wales
	Norfolk
	Scotland Branch
	Sheffield & District
	Teesside
	Wirral

\* indicates existing post holder

## AGENDA

### Wednesday Afternoon Session

2.00 pm

#### 1. Opening of the AGM by the Town Mayor of Kenilworth, Councillor Samantha Cooke

2.15 pm

#### 2. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

2.30 pm

#### 3. Appointment of Tellers and Scrutineers

#### 4. Report of the Standing Orders Committee, by Roy Lewis, Chair, SOC

#### 5. Adoption of the Report of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 and 10 October 2019 (see insert with *The Pensioner* Winter 2020 Issue 283)

#### 6. Any Matters Arising from the report of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

2.50 pm

#### 7. Presentation of 2021 Annual Report, by Lisa Ray, General Secretary, CSPA (see insert with *The Pensioner* Summer 2022 Issue 289)

#### 8. Presentation of 2021 Statement of Accounts by Mike Sparham, National Treasurer (see insert with *The Pensioner* Summer 2022 Issue 289)

#### 9. Adoption of 2021 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, adoption of 2019 Annual Report and Accounts

3.10 pm

#### 10. Introduction of New Candidates, EC Members and Election Results

3.20 pm

#### 11. PRESENTATION "NEW CSPA" by Richard Hammond/Steve Meredith, HMS16 (Branding and Design Agency) and Project Policy and Campaigns Manager Nicola Crichton, CSPA

3.40 pm

### PART 3 - MOTIONS

## SECTION A - ALLIANCE BUSINESS

### 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

#### Motion A1

**Rule 1:** Delete "hereinafter referred to as the Alliance" and insert "hereinafter referred to as the CSPA". Amend all subsequent Rules and Appendices by deleting "the Alliance" and inserting "the CSPA" wherever it occurs.

**Executive Council**

#### Motion A2

**Rule 3 (a):** Insert "or deferred benefits" after "benefits" in para 3(a) and in 3(b) delete "and are within 10 years of their pension age".

**Gloucestershire**

#### Motion A3

**Rule 4:** Delete Rules 4 (a), (b) and (c) and insert in their place:

4 (a) The Elected Officers of the Alliance shall be the Chair and Vice Chair. They shall be elected as in Rule 7 (f).

4 (b) The Appointed Officers of the Alliance shall be the General Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be appointed by the Executive Council.

4 (c) The Executive Council shall be responsible for authorising the appointment of other personnel as necessary on such terms and conditions as they may deem fit.

**Rule 5:** Delete Rule 5 (b) and insert in its place:

5 (b) The Executive Council shall consist of the Elected Officers as defined in Rule 4 (a), the Appointed Officers as defined in Rule 4 (b), and not more than seventeen members, nine of whom will represent the Alliance's nine Regions in England and Wales. All except the Appointed Officers can vote at Executive Council meetings and any sub-committees. The Quorum shall be nine, excluding the Appointed Officers.

**Rule 7 (e) (ii):** Amend the first sentence to read:

Nominations may be submitted by Branches and Groups and members not covered by Branches or Groups in respect of the Elected Officers, five ordinary members of the Executive Council and Standing Orders Committee.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A4 [falls if Motion A3 is not carried]**

Rule 7 (e) (ii): Insert at the end:

Two of the seats for ordinary members of the Executive Council shall be reserved for women.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A5 [falls if Motion A3 is not carried]**

**Rule 7:** Delete Rules 7 (f) (ii) and 7 (f) (iii) and insert in their place:

7 (f) (ii) Those for the Elected Officers, five ordinary members of the Executive Council and Standing Orders Committee shall be voted upon by representatives from Branches, representatives from Groups and members attending not covered by Branches and Groups.

7 (f) (iii) The nine Regional seats on the Executive Council shall be filled as a result of votes cast by representatives from Groups and members in attendance not covered by Groups.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A6**

**Rule 6 (c) (iv):** Delete last sentence.

**Rule 6 (c) (vii):** Add at the end:

The Treasurer and the holder of any Group post with access to Alliance membership details must be members of the Alliance as defined in Rule 3. At Group discretion, a Group associate member may be elected to any other Officer post or position within the Group.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A7**

**Rule 10:** Delete Rule 10 (d) and insert in its place:

10 (d) The Chair and Vice-Chair if in attendance at any General Meeting, or meeting of the Executive Council or any meeting convened by those bodies, shall decide between themselves who will formally chair a meeting or, if both are absent, by a person appointed by the meeting.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A8**

**Rule 10 (g):** Amend “appointed by the Executive Council” to read “appointed as in SO 27”.

In Appendix 1, insert new Standing Order (No 27), Appointment of Scrutineers and Tellers, as follows:

**SO 27. Appointment of Chief Scrutineer/Chief Teller and Scrutineers/Tellers**

(a) The Standing Orders Committee will be responsible

for nominating persons of good standing to the AGM to act as Chief Scrutineer, Assistant Scrutineer, Chief Teller and the necessary Tellers to assist them.

(b) Such appointments will be published as part of an SOC report and be put to the AGM for agreement by a simple show of hands.

(c) As it may be necessary for the CSPA to hold a postal ballot on an issue during the period up to the following AGM, such Scrutineers and Tellers will remain in post until the start of that AGM.

(d) The duties of the Scrutineers and Tellers are described in the guidelines attached to these Standing Orders.

Current SO 27 and SO 28 to be renumbered SO 28 and SO 29 respectively.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A9 [falls if Motion A8 is not carried]**

Create Appendix 4 and insert the following:

**GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF CHIEF SCRUTINEER, ASSISTANT SCRUTINEER, CHIEF TELLER AND TELLERS (see SO 27)**

1. The nominees to the positions of Chief Scrutineer, Assistant Scrutineer, Chief Teller and Tellers must be persons entitled to attend the AGM as set out in Rule 7 (a) of the Constitution, but must not be an Officer or member of the Executive Council.

2. The Chief Scrutineer, Assistant Scrutineer, Chief Teller and Tellers shall be nominated by the Standing Orders Committee to take up this role at the AGM and for any postal ballots up to the next AGM.

3. The Chief Scrutineer and Assistant Scrutineer shall be responsible for overseeing the conducting of all votes, whether at an AGM or by a postal ballot, and for certifying the result. The Chief Teller and Tellers shall be responsible for the counting of all votes.

4. The nominations of Chief Scrutineer, Assistant Scrutineer, Chief Teller and Tellers must be approved by a simple majority of a show of hands at the AGM. All post holders will remain in their appointment until

the start of the following AGM.

5. At an AGM, the responsibility of the Chief Scrutineer and Assistant Scrutineer will be to ensure that all voting conducted is carried out correctly, this being:

- a) Confirmation of the total possible vote by representatives who have registered at the AGM and been issued with a card vote.
- b) An accurate count and record of all votes cast. The Chief Scrutineer will certify the result and pass it to the Chair or Vice-Chair. If a two-thirds majority is required, it will be confirmed whether this has been achieved.
- c) In the case of elections the Chief Scrutineer shall ensure that any ballots are counted in the following order: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretaries, Regional Representatives, Ordinary members of the EC, SOC. One person cannot be elected to two posts. Once elected, they will be excluded from any subsequent election, even if unopposed. When the election is complete, the details will be inserted on Ballot Count Certificates, giving details as required including any spoiled papers, signing and dating the Certificate and passing it to the Chair or Vice-Chair.

6. In the event of a requirement for a Postal Ballot between AGMs, the Chief Scrutineer and Assistant Scrutineer will arrange a venue for an accurate count, will supervise the count and record all votes cast, including spoiled ballot papers. The details will be recorded on Ballot Count Certificates, giving details as required, signing and dating the Certificate, and passing the completed Certificate to the General Secretary.

**7. If an error, omission or some other factor, whether it affects the result or not, is identified at a later date, it must immediately be reported to the Chair or Vice-Chair.**

**Executive Council**

#### **Motion A10**

**Rule 11:** Delete Rule 11.2 and insert in its place:

11.2 Where a complaint or allegation is referred to the Executive Council, it shall appoint an Investigator(s) from a Panel to investigate any such complaint or allegation arising under this Rule. The Panel of Investigators will consist of the Ordinary members of the Executive Council

elected under Rule 7 (f) (iii) and senior members of staff (excluding the General Secretary and Treasurer). The Investigator(s) will provide a written report and make recommendations within 28 days to the Vice-Chair and Treasurer on what actions or steps should be taken.

**Appendix 2; Complaints or Allegations:** Delete “the EC Officer” and insert “the Investigator(s)”

**Appendix 2; Investigating Officer:** Amend “Investigating Officer” to “Investigator(s) wherever it occurs

**Appendix 2; Investigating Officer:** Amend the first three sentences to read “The EC shall appoint an Investigator(s) to investigate any complaint received or allegation arising under the terms of Rule 11.1. The Investigator(s) appointed shall not previously have been involved with the issue and will not have any other role in the process. The appointed Investigator(s) will be requested....”.

**Executive Council**

#### **Motion A11**

**Rule 12:** Delete, and insert in its place:

12. No new rules or standing orders shall be made, nor shall any rules or standing orders be amended or rescinded, except by a resolution approving such alteration passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote at an Annual or Special General Meeting. Any proposed alteration must be specified in a formal motion submitted in accordance with Rule 7.

**Appendix 1, Standing Order 4 :** Delete the definition of “C” and insert in its place:

“C” indicating that the motion would reverse a decision made at the previous year’s Annual Meeting or Special Meeting in that year and is not for debate.

**Executive Council**

#### **Motion A12**

**Rule 13:** Delete in its entirety.

**Executive Council**

#### **Motion A13**

Amend the terms “Chairman” and “Vice Chairman” to “Chair” and “Vice Chair” wherever they occur in the Rules and Appendices.

**Executive Council**

## Motion A14

**Appendix 1, Standing Order 26:** Delete SO 26 and insert in its place:

SO 26:

- (a) Voting at an AGM for the positions of Elected Officers, EC members and SOC shall follow the provisions of Rule 7 (f) (i) and 7 (g) (i) and shall be by Card Vote.
- (b) In view of the disturbance which takes place immediately before the time limit for election votes is announced; a period shall be set aside for the casting of the votes to be completed, during which no debate takes place.
- (c) Voting by Postal Ballot for the positions of Elected Officers, EC members and SOC shall follow the provisions of Rule 7 (f) (i) and 7 (g) (i) but shall be by Card Vote, with sufficient time for notification of any vacancy and subsequent nomination to take place, followed by sufficient time for notification of nominations and a ballot to take place.
- (d) Voting on a Motion shall follow the Rules as set down in 7 (g) (i) and 7 (g) (ii).

Voting on a Constitutional amendment shall follow the procedures as set out in Rule 12 and voting shall be as set down in 7 (g) (i) and 7 (g) (ii), with all votes requiring a two-thirds majority in the affirmative.

**Executive Council**

## Motion A15

This AGM agrees that the Code of Conduct is adopted and included as an Appendix to the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance (CSPA) Rules and Constitution.

After Appendix 2 insert the following:

### Appendix 3

#### CSPA CODE OF CONDUCT

The CSPA values the contribution of our HQ staff, members, volunteers, visitors, and other external partners, who support our work and enjoy our activities, benefits, and services. We all have a right to enjoy a safe, mutually respectful, and supportive environment.

Everyone connected with the CSPA is expected to:

- Adopt a fair, inclusive approach, founded on mutual respect and rejecting bullying behaviour. Discrimination, or harassment of any group or individual on the grounds of gender, race, disability, age, marital status, pregnancy, religion or belief or



sexual orientation will not be tolerated. This includes verbal, written or physical behaviour.

- Reject violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening, abusive or offensive behaviour and language (verbal or written, including via social media).
- Report any concerns for the health and safety or welfare of CSPA members. Avoid any action likely to cause injury or impair safety on CSPA premises or at hired venues, events or activities organised by, or on behalf of, the CSPA.
- Reject behaviour which could bring the CSPA into disrepute, including at meetings and on social media.
- Abide by CSPA rules and procedures, particularly those which govern the conduct of meetings and elections, the use of personal data, and the use of funds.

#### Dealing with unacceptable behaviour

If anyone acts in a way that is not in keeping with the standards of conduct expected by the CSPA, early intervention is key. Mediation is the preferred method of solving disputes. Everyone involved should be reminded of the guidance contained in this code. When appropriate, the person(s) concerned may be asked to leave a meeting or event.

Everyone should bear in mind possible behavioural issues caused by cognitive impairment and, if necessary, seek advice from Dementia Connect Support line at Alzheimer's Society on 0333 150 3456. <https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-support/dementia-connect>



Instances of alleged serious misconduct, including those that result in removal from a meeting, should be reported to the Deputy General Secretary. The Deputy General Secretary will consider all the supporting information provided and will decide on the appropriate response, including giving advice to the parties involved. In more serious cases, the Disciplinary Procedures in Para 11 and Appendix 2 of CSPA National Rules and Constitution will be followed.

**CSPA staff**

All CSPA staff are expected to follow the same principles set out in this Code, but any complaint about their conduct will be dealt with in accordance with the ACAS codes of practice on Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures. <https://www.acas.org.uk/acas-code-of-practice-on-disciplinary-and-grievance-procedures>.

Complaints about the conduct of CSPA staff should be sent to the General Secretary, or if concerned with the General Secretary, to the Chairman.

The ACAS website also provides the appropriate definitions of bullying, discrimination and harassment should HQ staff wish to make a complaint about their treatment/experience whilst working for the CSPA.

**Publication**

This Code of Conduct will be provided to members upon joining the CSPA. It will also be shared on the CSPA website [www.cspa.co.uk](http://www.cspa.co.uk), *The Pensioner* magazine, the Guidance for Groups in England and Wales, and the CSPA Rules and Constitution. It will be reviewed annually by the Executive Council.

**Executive Council**

5.10 pm  
**PRESENTATION by Charity for Civil Servants**

5.20 pm  
**Close of Wednesday Afternoon Session**

5.30 pm  
**OPTIONAL SESSION on Data Protection Regulations, by Bernard Seymour, Affinity Resolutions**

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9.00 am  
**Thursday Morning Session**

**2. OTHER ALLIANCE BUSINESS**

**2.1 SPECIAL DEBATE ON STAINABILITY OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS' ALLIANCE (CSPA)**

- *PRESENTATION on Organisation and Recruitment, Mike Lawler, Secretary Organisation*

**CSPA ORGANISATION**

**Motion A16**

This AGM agrees that, with effect from 1 January 2023, the monthly subscription should be increased to £3 for individuals and £4.20 for joint members. The amount ring-fenced for the Campaign Fund should be increased to 10p per month from the same date.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A17**

The recent Government lockdowns and restrictions have highlighted the shortcomings of Alliance Groups in maintaining meaningful contact with their members. Together with groups closing and others struggling to remain in existence due to a lack of volunteers to take up committee positions, and notwithstanding the 2019 Working Party report and recommendations on the organisation of the CSPA, it is time now for the Executive Committee to consider the disbandment of the group structure in England and Wales and move to Regional Representation, with each EC Regional Member holding the chair position, with other committee posts being filled from volunteers from within that region.

Rather than watch the slow rupture of the Alliance over

the next few years, the Executive Committee is instructed to devise a plan to move to a regional structure and to put in place for consideration and implementation at a future date to be agreed by the AGM in 2023.

**Winchester**

### Motion A18

This AGM notes with concern the seemingly inexorable decline in CSPA membership year-on-year. From a high point of nearly 70,000 members, our membership has dipped to just over 48,000. From the beginning of 2021 until April 2022 alone, the net loss was almost 4,000 members. The continuation of such losses poses an existential threat to the CSPA, at a time when the need for effective campaigning organisations such as ours has never been greater.

This AGM does not underestimate the difficulties faced by the CSPA in attracting new members, let alone retaining existing ones. The unsupportive attitude of our former employers, the changing nature of the civil service, the market conditions affecting our principal membership benefit, the atomisation of society and the general decline in volunteering, our ageing membership, the loss of active Groups in many areas, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic all pose serious challenges.

The last time there was a really searching look at our organisation was the Forward Options Working Party (FOWP) in 2014. Our membership then stood at over 55,000. The FOWP presciently said: "If not reversed, the continuing membership reductions will erode our position as the recognised organisation representing retired civil servants." Sadly, the reductions in membership have continued and have not been reversed.

This AGM calls upon the Executive Council to make membership recruitment and retention its **No 1 Priority** and to:

- Urgently devise, publish and implement an imaginative programme of work, with the required resources, in concert with Branches, Groups and members, so that the benefits and services offered by CSPA membership can reach the widest possible audience throughout 2023
- Revisit the FOWP conclusion that there would be a lot to gain from having a single organisation for retired civil servants.



**West Mercia**

### Motion A19

The Eastbourne Group request the Executive Committee to consider the following:

As CSPA membership has dropped due to the recent pandemic and we have lost some members, and also in view of the Government's threat to cut 30,000 civil service jobs during the next few years, the Eastbourne & District Group suggest that the Executive Committee consider holding our AGMs in alternating formats: October 2022 as a 'physical' meeting and October 2023 as a Zoom meeting. If successful this could become standard practice, help reduce the expenses of the Alliance and increase participation. The Group believes that this change could be achieved without an amendment to the existing Constitution, but accepts that it would require the support of EC members and HQ officers. Those unable to attend a conference venue might well participate in a Zoom conference. This is not intended to be the final word.

**Eastbourne**

10.00 am

## SECTION B – PENSIONS AND RELATED MATTERS

15

### 1. STATE PENSIONS

**Composite Motion A20** To include Motions A20, A21 and A22.

To be moved by **Bristol** and seconded by **Inner London Group**

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to ask Government to reaffirm its commitment to honour the state pension triple-lock guarantee for the remainder of this Parliament as pledged by the Work and Pensions Secretary in a statement to Parliament made on 21 March 2022, and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 26 May Statement to Parliament on the cost of living support, that benefits will be uprated by this September's CPI and that the triple-lock will apply for the state retirement pension. [<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/cost-of-living-support>]

**Bristol**

### Motion A21

This AGM is pleased that the Government has announced that it intends to reinstate the triple-lock for pensioners from April 2023 and that this could, if

inflation reaches 10% this September, increase the state pension for pensioners who retired after 5 April 2016 by £1,000 and by £737.62 for those pensioners who are not on the new flat rate pension because they retired before 5 April 2016. This is badly needed money.

That CSPA campaigns to ensure that in future the Government does not decrease pensioners' benefits thus causing unnecessary financial strain and hardship.

**Inner London**

#### **Motion A22**

This AGM welcomes the Government's declared change of heart with respect to the reinstatement of the pension triple-lock scheme, but notes that even with it reinstated, the United Kingdom's state pension will remain one of the poorest of the G7 states. Even with the possible increase of 10%, in line with inflation, many pensioners will still be existing on a fixed income of less than half the living wage. Conference instructs the Executive Council (EC) to continue its commendable work of holding the Government to account on this issue, to ensure it, the Government, remains robust in its determination to uprate pensions in April 2023 based on the triple-lock, in spite of loud voices speaking out against the proposal. It further requests the Executive Council stays vigilant in ensuring that the Government increases both the state and CSPA pensions in line with the triple-lock in future, as announced.

**Bedford**

**Composite Motion A23** To include Motions A23 and A24.

To be moved by **Sheffield Group** and seconded by **Northern Ireland Branch**

Whilst the AGM welcomes the Chancellor's commitment to resuming the triple-lock arrangements in 2023, it deplores the fact that the baseline for any increase will be reduced by the ill-advised reduction in this year's award. For members, reliant on the fixed income state pension, in the light of the present rise in living costs, this is a totally indefensible situation.

The EC is instructed to work with partner organisations and influencers to argue for redress of this deficit in the 2023 settlement.

**Sheffield**

#### **Motion A24**

This CSPA AGM recognises that the triple-lock is a key mechanism, supported by governments of various persuasions, to set the increase in the state pension

from April each year. Whilst the ongoing implementation of the triple-lock has helped to maintain the state pension relative to earnings, it has done little to deal with the shameful position that the British state pension remains one of the poorest in the developed world, currently placed at 32nd out of 34 countries.

The Government's decision to suspend the triple-lock for 2022/23 means that state pensioners will immediately lose out by nearly 6% this year. The Earnings Index has already reached 9% whilst the Government has uprated state pensions by only 3.1%. Of course, this means that pensioners have had their pensions devalued not just this year but every year going forward.

Therefore, this AGM calls on the Executive Council to do everything possible to seek to persuade the Government to reverse this decision and ensure that pensioners have their pensions fully restored.

**Northern Ireland**

#### **Motion A25**

The Age Addition to the state pension of 25p per week, payable to people aged 80 and above, was introduced in 1971 and has never been enhanced. If this payment had increased in line with inflation, it would today be worth £2.75p per week, or £191 per annum.

This AGM directs that the Executive Council, as part of Later Life Ambitions and with other relevant age organisations, campaign to have this payment increased.

**Birmingham & District**

## **2. PUBLIC SERVICE PENSIONS**

#### **Motion A26**

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to task Government to raise public sector and civil service pensions in April 2023 by this September's Consumer Price Index rate of inflation, which some economists are now forecasting may exceed 9%.

**Bristol**

10.45 am

## **3. ASSOCIATED PENSION MATTERS**

### **3.1 COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

**Composite Motion A27** To include Motions A27, A28, A29.

To be moved by **Executive Council** and seconded by **Birmingham & District Group**

This AGM is concerned at the alarming rise in the cost of living and the impact on the value of pensions. The civil





service pension increase of 3.1% in April fell far short of the CPI inflation rate of 9% in April, resulting in a loss in real terms of £50 a month for an average £10,000 public service pension; compounded by a reduction in the value of the state pension from April following the suspension of the triple-lock. At the same time energy bills soared by £57 a month from April with the increase in the regulated price cap to £1,971; plus, an expected substantial rise from October; and a further increase in the price cap from January 2023. This has all combined to put unprecedented financial pressure and stress on pensioners and others on fixed incomes.

This AGM calls on the Executive Council, groups, and members, to campaign vigorously for further Government measures to alleviate the impact on pensioners of rapidly rising prices and declining pensions, working together with Later Life Ambitions, the National Pensioners Convention, and other pensioner partner organisations.

**Executive Council**

#### **Motion A28**

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to arrange that the CSPA, along with other older people's organisations, lobby HM Government at the earliest opportunity to substantially increase the Winter Fuel Payment, which has not been increased since 2011 and has certainly not kept pace with fuel price increases.

This is especially relevant with the substantial recent and impending increases in domestic gas prices.

**Birmingham & District**

#### **Motion A29**

That this AGM seeks to ensure that an article is written and printed about the causes of the present high

inflation rate in *The Pensioner* magazine and also what pensioners can do to try and save as much money as possible on fuel, food and other inflationary expenses so as to try and ease the burden on pensioners' purses.

**Inner London**

#### **Motion A30**

The AGM observes, with great concern, the continuing upward spiral of vehicle fuel prices and notes that in many areas of the United Kingdom, the cost of vehicle fuel has now crossed the £2 per litre threshold. As a consequence, many CSPA pensioners now face stark choices concerning the use of their vehicles and public transport, either for essential purposes, or for leisure and pleasure. Conference further notes that the increased cost of fuel will have a detrimental effect upon almost every aspect of pensioners' daily lives – for example, the rising cost of haulage and freight will contribute to an increase in the price of food and other essentials.

We believe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should immediately reduce taxation on fuel by at least 25 pence per litre, with a view to reducing it still further should the cost of fuel continue to rise. Conference is alarmed by the potential reduction in personal liberty and freedom that the ever-increasing cost of vehicle fuel is creating for all senior citizens, and calls upon the Executive Council (EC) to work with other like-minded organisations to continue to exert pressure on the Government to introduce a fairer fuel and fuel taxation pricing policy to commence by April 2023.

**Bedford**

#### **Motion A31**

We are all of aware of the ever increasing cost of energy as a proportion of our obligatory household costs. The energy companies, and Ofgem, the regulatory authority, are giving serious consideration to introducing "surge pricing" with effect from 2025. This is the process whereby households that use energy at what are deemed "peak times" will pay more to do so, and will, theoretically at least, be charged less for using energy at what are termed "off-peak times". It is claimed this will be of great benefit to the consumer. The EC is instructed to study what are the implications of this for CSPA pensioners, and to produce either a one-off bulletin, or a series of articles in *The Pensioner*, providing advice to members as to how best to take advantage of this proposed charging mechanism for their household energy.

**Bedford**

### Motion A32

This CSPA AGM notes, with concern, that whilst the Warm Discount Scheme has applied throughout England, Scotland and Wales since 2011, it still does not apply in Northern Ireland. This disadvantages pensioners in Northern Ireland in an already recognised area where pensioner poverty is endemic.

This AGM therefore calls on the Executive Council to lobby the Governments at both Westminster and Stormont to ensure that this Scheme, which costs the public purse nothing as it is funded by the energy companies, is paid to Northern Ireland pensioners as a matter of urgency.

**Northern Ireland**

11.30 am

### PRESENTATION from the National Pensioners Convention

11.40 am

## SECTION C – DIGITAL /FINANCIAL EXCLUSION

**Composite Motion A33** To include Motions A33, A34, A35 and A36

To be moved by the **West Mercia Group** and seconded by **Gloucestershire Group**

From GP appointments to payment apps for parking, more key services are now being delivered digitally. Cash-strapped local councils are moving inexorably online in the way they do business. Unjustified assumptions are being made about the ability of some users to cope. In the case of health and social care, it will often be those people most in need of assistance who are least able to navigate a digital route to accessing it. Ofcom recently estimated that around 6% of UK households – 1.5m homes – have no internet access. Millions more of us remain irregular and unconfident users of the internet. As digital technology becomes the gatekeeper to much of everyday life, a significant minority of people are at risk of exclusion and isolation.

Technology must not be allowed to drive people to the side of their own lives. Baroness Ros Altmann, the former Pensions Minister, recently wrote of being contacted by an elderly woman who no longer drives to her local park, because she cannot download the car



parking app required. The growing rarity of person-to-person interactions while making transactions – or just seeking advice and information – can exacerbate a sense of isolation among the lonely.

The uncertain future of ticket offices at railway stations causes us to reflect more broadly on the increasing role of technology. More needs to be invested in helping marginalised groups gain easy online access. The diversity of provision needs to be protected. Some people will never become comfortable using smartphones or tablets to get vital tasks done. Alternative options must be maintained for important services. Contactable telephone numbers and staffed public access points should always be available. This will inevitably cost more than a purely digital option.

This AGM accepts that is the price of being fair to those who find themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide. It calls upon the Executive Council, in concert with Branches and Groups, to continue to publicise and to support campaigns to ensure that, for people without online access or skills – who tend to be older, poorer and more vulnerable – another social barrier will not have been erected.

We also need to lead by example in our own organisation, as the difficulties and distress caused to our members by the new CSPA travel insurance arrangements has painfully highlighted.

**West Mercia**

### Motion A34

The CSPA is doing much campaigning on digital exclusion, but a worrying factor is that as members

age, a realisation creeps in that they can no longer handle digital communication such as online banking, ordering and buying items on the internet, completing tax returns and many more uses. Remembering passwords and web addresses becomes increasingly more difficult.

It is proposed therefore that the AGM instructs the Executive Council to campaign for a means of reverting to non-internet communications when people are no longer able to use the internet. This could ideally be a box to tick requesting reversion to paper communications.

**Gloucestershire**

#### **Motion A35**

With the continuing trend of making services available only or mainly online, the EC is instructed to campaign with Government ministers that organisations, in both the private and public sectors, have policies and staff training in place to ensure their response to all those without access to the internet have equal opportunity as those with internet access.

**East Devon**

#### **Motion A36**

This AGM applauds the campaigning work by the CSPA and the NPC against digital exclusion. It notes however that the problem is getting worse:

- 1) Applying for a bank loan or for credit almost always requires provision of an email address.
- 2) Many organisations, including political parties and TU organisations, require all communications to be electronic.

We must not forget that many older people, because of infirmities such as Holmes tremor, cannot use computers. It is vital that for their sake we campaign for an emergency non-electronic stop-gap and the Executive Council is called upon to so campaign.

**Inner London**

#### **Motion A37**

The Government is keen for pensioners to become digitally aware, thus making it possible to provide information to them all in an easily accessible way. However, the increasing costs of hardware, software, broadband access, program providers etc combine to deter the unconnected from even considering internet access and the learning that goes with it. Is it not time for the Government to consider bringing forth price controls or a cap on what pensioners (or anyone else) can be charged, for a basic internet access service? The

EC is instructed to make this suggestion, to the relevant authorities and press for its early introduction.

**Bedford**

#### **Composite Motion A38** To include Motions A38 and A39.

To be moved by **Bristol Group** and seconded by **East Devon Group**

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to seek Government assurance to re-state its commitments and to set out a range of initiatives to ensure that the elderly (and the vulnerable) are not put at risk of digital exclusion by plans to digitise all telephone services from 2025. Current access to important public and commercial services on which their health, personal security, management of finances and quality of life depend are threatened. Key among those concerns is the need to safeguard the wellbeing of those not connected to the internet who depend on current (conventional copper) telephone land lines to access these services against the plans to digitise telephone services from 2025, which will render analogue-based devices redundant and unusable.

**Bristol**

#### **Motion A39**

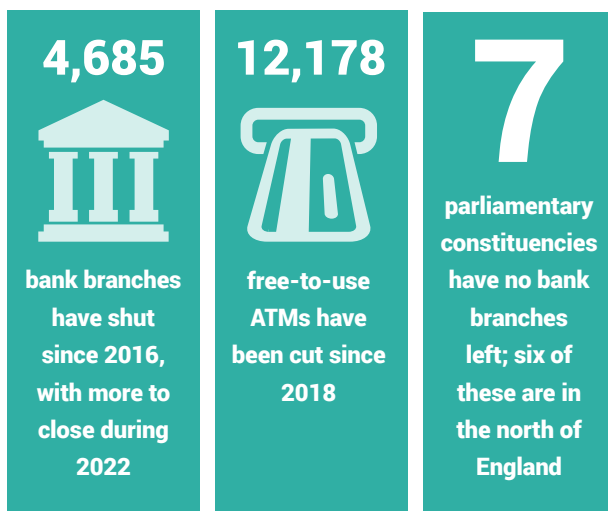
In noting that the telephone service is changing from the expensive analogue to a digital service, that will affect the elderly, and that currently the responsibility for ensuring the equipment to enable a continuous service lies with the customer, the Executive Council are instructed to campaign urgently through Government and Ofcom to place this responsibility upon service providers to ensure services and equipment before the change is fully operational on changeover completion, to include whatever is required to maintain the ability to use the phone during loss of power. Any equipment to be provided free of charge and together with support to be able to use it effectively so no one is left at risk.

**East Devon**

#### **Motion A40**

A report in April 2022 by consumer champions Which? Money shows how millions of elderly, vulnerable and isolated people are being denied access to their own money. Bank branch closures and withdrawal of free to use ATMs mean that people, especially pensioners, who prefer to use cash rather than app based or other digital banking services, are left without service. The problem is particularly acute for people living in rural areas where

## Statistics



there may be poor public transport infrastructure to enable them to get to their bank. The banking trade body UK Finance have said that the industry will ensure that there is continued access to cash for those who need it, when they need it. They have not said how they will do this, nor that services will be free of charge.

This AGM therefore instructs the EC to collaborate with all possible partners to campaign to ensure that Britain's cash economy is not destroyed.

**Manchester & Bolton**

12.10 pm

## SECTION D – HEALTH

### Motion A41

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to seek from Government significant improvement to access to GP appointments. Against the background of the difficulties in making timely GP face-to-face appointments and access to lengthy hospital waiting lists, will the Government set out its plans for improving access to GP surgery appointments, hospital referrals, diagnostic and treatment services, and social care at-home and in-care-homes provision, so that the elderly, frail and vulnerable are not placed at a disadvantage taking into account their special needs compared with the population as a whole.

**Bristol**

**Composite Motion A42** To include Motions A42 and A43.

To be moved by the **Manchester & Bolton Group** and seconded by the **Crawley Group**

This AGM wishes to recognise the poor standard of treatment regarding dentistry, chiropody and eye tests

provided on the National Health Service in parts of the UK. It calls upon the EC to campaign for better NHS services in these areas and to demand at least parity in England to the rest of the UK.

It is now almost impossible to obtain an NHS dentist in England, whereas in Scotland there is no difficulty signing up to one. This forces people either to go private or to stop attending the dentist for check-ups and treatment. Poor dental health can lead to health issues, including osteomyelitis, sepsis, malnutrition and heart disease. The lack of regular check-ups can lead to missing mouth and oropharyngeal cancers.

We believe that there should be a central agency which can allocate an NHS dentist (especially, but not exclusively) for pensioners.

In the 1980s, pensioners could get free basic chiropody in old age, if lack of flexibility or visual impairment meant being unable to trim one's own nails. The NHS podiatry service now excludes nail-cutting. This means many pensioners need to pay privately for this service, if they can afford it, or risk having neglected feet, which impact upon mobility and health.

We believe that the erstwhile provision of nail-cutting should be reinstated.

The provision of a free "eye" test for pensioners in England is a misnomer, the "free" test being for "sight" only. There is no free glaucoma test, no free retinal photography, and no peripheral vision test as of right. Funding of optometrists in England is far lower than in Scotland, where the full eye health test is included. In England one must pay for a full eye-health examination, and even then, this may not include a peripheral vision test – surely as important for the car-driving elderly as forward-vision focus.

We believe the full service should be provided free of charge in all parts of the UK.

**Manchester & Bolton**

### Motion A43

This AGM deplores the fact that chronic underfunding of NHS dentistry is increasingly forcing many practices to withdraw from the NHS scheme and become private only services, thus denying the poorest, especially pensioners, proper dental care. The EC is instructed to pursue urgently a dialogue with the Department of Health in an attempt to reverse the situation, which will lead to the inevitable resultant decline in the nation's health and wellbeing at a time of rapidly increasing costs of living.

**Crawley**

**Motion A44**

This meeting instructs the EC to vigorously campaign against any attempts to raise the age which qualifies for free medical prescriptions.

**Crawley**

12.30pm

**Close of Thursday Morning Session**

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**LUNCH**

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**Thursday Afternoon Session**

1.15pm

**SECTION E – SOCIAL CARE**

**Composite Motion A45** *To include Motions A45 and A46.*

*To be moved by **Executive Council** and seconded by*

**Teeside Group**

This AGM notes the Government measures to deal with the social care system in England, including a cap on care costs of £86K from October 2023 and a Health and Care Levy based on National Insurance contributions. The planned allocation of levy funds, primarily to the NHS, means that the social care system will continue to be seriously underfunded.

This AGM is concerned that the measures announced will not resolve the crisis in social care and that rules on progress towards the £86K cap will have an unfair impact on poorer pensioners. This AGM therefore instructs the EC to campaign, alongside groups and members, to call for a free national care system working with the NHS, to provide a holistic service covering medical and social needs, with ringfenced income streams that are progressive and intergenerationally fair – for example, a 1% increase in income tax and the equalisation of pension tax relief at 20%.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A46**

That this AGM deprecates the Government’s inadequate strategic and financial planning, which has led to the depleted and diminishing provision of both health and social care services throughout UK.

Despite the highly valued skills and dedicated commitment of staff providing health and social



care services, both staffing and resource levels are totally inadequate to cope with current and growing requirements. The prolonged pain and suffering of so many is totally unacceptable. Remedy is long overdue and now critical!

The EC is urged to press the Government to speedily instigate sound remedial strategic planning along commensurate financial provisions in order to quickly restore the reputedly high standards of health and social care services throughout UK in keeping with the fundamental principles of the National Health Service.

**Teeside**

**Motion A47**

This AGM calls upon the EC to press the Government to require social care employers to recognise the vital work done by their key workers, through the provision of commensurate pay, conditions and professional development.

In addition, the needs of unpaid carers, many of whom are elderly themselves and save local authorities and the NHS millions, must be addressed, with access to better financial and respite support.

The EC should work with groups and members to support these campaigns.

**Executive Council**

**Motion A48**

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to seek from Government a commitment to examine the ways in which claims for care allowances could be automatically awarded to those in need, initiated in the first instance by notification from social care or GP services, and/or to introduce a much-simplified claims process compared

with the current complex, overly bureaucratic and lengthy procedure that often results in much-needed benefits remaining unclaimed.

**Bristol**

2.00 pm

## PRESENTATION from Carers UK

2.10 pm

## SECTION F – GENERAL

### 1. AGE DISCRIMINATION

#### Motion A49

This CSPA AGM notes that the Equality Law was applied in Great Britain in 2010, which banned discrimination on grounds of age in the provision of goods and services. However, it did not apply in Northern Ireland.

Whilst there is extensive equality legislation in Northern Ireland preventing discrimination on grounds of disability, race, religious belief and/or political opinion and sexual orientation, no such legislation applies to discrimination on grounds of age.

Whilst we recognise that there have been attempts to advance age discrimination legislation through the appropriate Government department in Northern Ireland, the Executive Office, this has run into various difficulties, which has prevented the legislation becoming law.

This AGM believes it is unacceptable that only Northern Ireland pensioners should not have the benefit of such essential legislation.

We call on the Executive Council to raise the matter with the appropriate Government departments to ensure that all pensioners throughout the UK have the protection of the law.

**Northern Ireland**

### 2. TRANSPORT

#### Motion A50

The Government's programme to support improvements in local public transport services in English regions is inadequately funded and inequitably

distributed. Their competitive bidding methodology makes essential travel a continuing postcode lottery, especially for the poorest pensioners and other disadvantaged people.

The NEC is instructed to work with Groups, members and other organisations to identify key access and travel issues, to publicise these issues, and campaign for a transport system that meets the needs of members and their families throughout the UK.

**Sheffield**

### 3. PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

#### Motion A51

This AGM notes that the transfer of responsibility for the welfare benefit of free TV licences for over 75-year-olds from Government to the BBC, was the beginning of a concerted effort by the Government to put pressure on the publicly owned broadcaster. More concerning are the recent announcements on the uprating of the TV licence, likely to force cuts to services, and the rumours of replacing the licence fee with an alternative funding mechanism.

This AGM notes the BBC's economic and cultural value to the United Kingdom and a wider global audience and instructs the EC to work with Groups and Branches to press the Government for a fair, sustainable funding mechanism to maintain this vital resource and ensure continued access for all.

**Executive Council**

**Composite Motion A52** To include Motions A52 and A53.

To be moved by **Sheffield Group** and seconded by **Crawley Group**

This AGM believes that public-service television is a vital component of UK media services. It is seriously concerned that the sale of Channel 4 is a further step in plans to diminish and marginalise public-service broadcasting, potentially removing a key source of independent information to the detriment of our members, and many others.

We fully support current campaigns to protect the BBC and Channel 4, but we instruct the EC to work closely with other organisations in a campaign to defend and, where possible, to increase and improve high-quality, accessible public-service broadcasting.

**Sheffield**

### Motion A53

The pandemic has illustrated the value of the BBC to society, especially older people, to inform, educate and entertain, providing a lifeline during lockdown.

This AGM agrees that the Alliance should support the Campaign "To Protect Our BBC".

**Crawley**

## 4. PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION

### Motion A54

Over 600 public toilets across the UK have ceased being maintained by local authorities since 2010, and in 37 areas major councils no longer run any facilities. Under the provisions of Section 87 of the *Public*



*Health Act 1936*, there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to provide public toilet facilities.

Government cuts to local authority budgets in recent years have resulted in the increasing closure of public toilet facilities across the UK. The reliance of local authorities on commercial and retail outlets enabling public use of their in-store toilet facilities was undermined by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has reminded everyone of the importance of personal hygiene in keeping ourselves and our communities safe and healthy. The provision of clean and well-maintained public toilets should not be seen as an optional extra by local authorities and by the Government as we all learn the lessons of the pandemic.

Clean, accessible and well-maintained public toilets are of particular importance to older people.

This AGM calls upon the Executive Council, working in concert with our Groups, Branches and members, and with our affiliated organisations, to publicise and support campaigns for:

1. Section 87 of the *Public Health Act 1936* to be updated to make it a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide adequate public toilet facilities that are:

- Publicly owned
- Free at the point of need

- Accessible to all
- Meet statutory hygiene standards
- Protect people's safety and dignity
- Staffed by a reputable organisation, or, as a minimum, are inspected on a frequent basis
- Signposted clearly in the local area.

2. The British Toilet Association's call for a National Toilet Map.

3. "Changing Places" toilets to be installed in all public venues, so that everyone, regardless of their access needs or disability or reliance on the assistance of carers or specialist equipment, can use a hygienic toilet facility with dignity.

4. Local authorities to ensure that public toilets are considered in their needs assessments of older and disabled people and in supporting their independence.

5. Central Government to provide adequate funding to local authorities for the provision of public toilets.

**West Mercia**

## 5. WATER AND POWER SUPPLY

### Motion A55

The recent storms illustrated infrastructure failings in the electricity and water supply systems, resulting in many people having no electricity or water for up to two weeks. This is especially difficult for older people. We therefore instruct the EC to campaign for better resilience to be built into the electricity and water supply systems.

**Crawley**

2.40 pm

**Any Guillotined Motions**

3.00 pm

**Vote of Thanks**

3.15 pm

**Close of Annual General Meeting**

## Nominee Pen Pictures

### CHAIR

#### DON MAKEPEACE, CBE

I worked in Customs & Excise/HMRC for 43 years, at Heathrow and in Cumbria, Lancashire, London and in Headquarters. I ended in HR, where I managed pay, pensions, retirement, industrial relations and other areas. I led the management negotiators on the terms and conditions for the new HMRC and on a series of pay deals (following talks with the Treasury).

Prior to that, I undertook 14 years in elected full-time union posts. Roles included member of the SCPS NEC (now PCS), national officer in C&E Group, DTUS Secretary, delegate to TUC and meetings in Brussels, and Branch President. I was a member of the PCS until retirement (now retired member), as well as joining FDA. I joined the CSPA before retirement and was elected to the Executive Council in 2011. In 2013, I was elected Vice Chairman then Chairman in 2021.

I am Treasurer and Membership Secretary of Twickenham Group. I have lobbied Parliament, leafleted a party conference and run CSPA stalls at union conferences, in local offices and at CS Live. I am on the local committee of the CSRF and a member of Benenden and the CS Club. I have maintained contacts with former union colleagues and have been a guest speaker at an FDA meeting.

I am married with two children and four grandchildren, who take up a good amount of our time. Although living in west London, I spend time back in Cumbria, where my main activities are walking and attending a local history and archaeology group. Longstanding memberships include the National Trust and Amnesty International.

### VICE CHAIR

#### LINDA RIDGERS-WAITE

The last year has been very busy as I was elected as Vice Chair (a great honour).

I have enjoyed doing some chairing in Don's absence – Zoom meetings are a challenge for a chair! And also taking on the work of a Trustee and being more involved with financial and other committee work.

I bring the civil service experience I have as an Inspector of Taxes, HR policy lead and a long-term manager, a nationally elected trade union EC member and President. I have also been a Trustee and long-term volunteer for the Charity for Civil Servants (CSBF as was).

When I am not doing CSPA work, I am a volunteer at Southwark Cathedral as a guide, steward and assistant to the Succentor. I am a student again (part-time six-year course) and I also run one of the college libraries on a weekly basis. I have had major renovation work on the house going on since November 2021, which is an almost daily challenge. In my spare time, I enjoy music and the artworks in London.

I am really looking forward to the AGM, making some more CSPA friends, and learning from the debates and informal conversations.

### SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION)

**(NO NOMINATIONS RECEIVED)**



## SECRETARY (ORGANISATION)

### MICHAEL LAWLER (MIKE)

Born 11 August 1941, I joined the civil service (Ministry of Supply) in September 1959, moving to HM C&E in 1962. Throughout my career, I was active in trade union affairs. In 1960, was elected junior delegate at the CSCA conference in Margate. Many conferences and committees after, largely with HM C&E and SCPS, I found myself involved with the Alliance in Wirral.

Between 1971 and 1982, I served on SCPS Branch committees in Dover, Liverpool and Preston before moving to Liverpool HQ Branch, where I became Treasurer/Membership Secretary. Transferring to Liverpool Collection in 1984, I became Treasurer of the Liverpool Bay (C&E Section) Branch of the SCPS. In 1988, I was responsible for the annual conference in Liverpool for 300 delegates. The Branch committee gave much support and I remained Treasurer until early retirement in 1995.

After leaving the civil service and having completed an Open University degree, I became General Manager at Bangor University Students Union, serving until 2003. While there was a large development project involved with the post, there was much committee work involving all aspects of student political and social life at the university. Also, in 1999, I was responsible for hosting an annual general managers conference. This involved all the accommodation, catering and social activities for some 300 delegates.

Moving back to Merseyside in 2003, I was elected Treasurer of the Wirral Group of the Alliance in 2004 and attended the AGM as delegate in 2005 and 2006. I was elected Secretary (Organisation) in January 2008 and have been re-elected annually ever since.

Socially, I enjoy caravanning and playing bridge and the church organ.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – NORTH EAST

### ANDREW AITCHISON (ANDY)

I am aged 64 and born in Lewisham, South East London. I gained a BA (Hons) degree in Spanish at Southampton University and started my working life at Midland Bank (now HSBC) in 1979. I first joined the ranks of the civil service in October 1987 as a Support Officer in the Investigation Division of Customs & Excise. In 1992 I moved up to Doncaster in Yorkshire, where I continued working for Customs & Excise, first with the National Investigation Service in Leeds, subsequently moving to Sheffield VAT office in 2003 as an Executive Officer. I continued in this role up to taking early retirement in June 2014. Although I was a PCS member throughout my career, I had never got involved in any trade union affairs or campaigning activities.

On retirement, I joined the CSPA and began attending meetings of the Sheffield & District Group, becoming their Secretary in October 2015. I thoroughly enjoyed carrying out this role and gained a firm appreciation and understanding of the campaigning issues relevant to retired civil service members. I particularly enjoyed attending the CSPA National AGMs and meeting colleagues from other regions, as well as those from the Executive Council. I found everyone to be both friendly and inspiring. I therefore felt privileged to be nominated for the post of North East & Cumbria Regional Representative in October 2019.

In addition I have also frequently attended local meetings of the Yorkshire & Humber National Pensioners Convention and have attended their Pensioners Parliament in the years 2016 to 2019.

If re-elected as NE & Cumbria Regional Representative, I will endeavour to continue to do my best to support all groups in the region in ▶

whatever way I can. In particular, I will continue to refer any issues raised by regional members and groups to the CSPA Executive Council.

I am aware of how hard Group officers in the region have worked and how passionate they are in regard to civil service pensioner issues and concerns. I thank them all wholeheartedly for that. This will be an extremely important campaigning year for the CSPA, with the spiralling cost of living crisis hitting members hard, no adequate solution in the offing for social care and the continuing threat of certain pensioner benefits being lost in the not too distant future.

My message to all CSPA members in the North East region is please give as much support as possible to your local colleagues by taking as active a role in your local group as you can, in particular please think about attending local meetings if at all possible.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – NORTH WEST

### HARRY BRETT

I am seeking election as the North West Regional Representative and as I am seeking your support, I thought I would tell you a little bit about me. I am 75 years old, married with three children and five grandchildren. I live in Holmes Chapel, which is just south of Manchester, where I hold the post of Treasurer for the Manchester & Bolton Group.

I joined the civil service in 1963 from school with Post Office Telecommunications. I transferred to the prison service in 1969 commencing at HMP Manchester as an officer. I remained in the prison service until 2002, working my way through the ranks to retire as a

Governor 4, Head of Area Training. I was always a member of the relevant trade union, first the Prison Officers Association and later the Prison Governors Association (PGA). I was on the NEC with the PGA and was General Secretary for three years.

When I retired, I became a volunteer at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, working part-time. Started the Group back up at Manchester with John Eastwood. I am also the Membership Secretary of the Retired PGA.

I represent the Group at the Northwest Pensioners Association and through them I have this year been elected to both the NPC EC and the NPC Council.

I was first elected to the CSPA NEC in 2019 and just prior to the pandemic I was attempting to restart the non-active groups in the North West. I have also visited all the active groups before the shutdown and since the re-opening of Group meetings. I have also made myself available to them to answer queries etc. I was a member of the Group looking at diversity issues under the recent review of the New CSPA.

I believe that there are several issues affecting the CSPA, mainly the terms of any social care bill that is currently being discussed in parliament, the danger of the triple-lock agreement being suspended again, the hiring of the age limit to be entitled to free prescriptions, just to mention a few areas of concern. Internally, the erosion membership totals is a major concern, and we need to increase membership totals as a priority.

I would ask for your support in seeking re-election.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – EASTERN

### SUSAN HENNAH-BARHAM (SUE)

I was born in London, near Warren Street, in 1953. I worked at various jobs after leaving school, including at London Zoo and being a pharmacy dispenser at Boots the Chemist at Archway. In 1974 I joined the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in Holborn, and the Civil and Public Services Association union at the same time. I had several posts in MAFF, including Personnel, where I was a regular interviewer on promotion boards, which lasted for weeks at a time.

My next post was Food Standards, where I attended meetings in Brussels on a regular basis, to discuss proposed EU food regulations. In the 1980s, I moved to a headquarters out-station at Cambridge, dealing with EU seeds regulations and more Brussels meetings. I moved to MAFF Cambridge regional office after the birth of my daughter and, unusually for those times, I returned to work after six months. I worked in the Emergencies and Defence section, where I held the position of Regional Food Officer to be located in the Regional Nuclear War bunker in the event of a nuclear strike! I can talk openly about this now as all such information has been declassified.

Following MAFF becoming rebranded as DEFRA (Department of Food and Rural Affairs) and, against my wishes, I was moved to Natural England (NE), which was a DEFRA agency. Natural England threatened to de-recognise the two unions PCS and Prospect unless a partnership agreement was set up with a joint PCS and Prospect Union side. As I had been a PCS union rep for over 15 years, I was pleased to undertake the role of union side Vice-Chair, as well as continuing to be a manager in NE Green schemes. I was therefore that very 'rare

species' – a manager and a trade union rep.

I took the opportunity to broaden my union training and qualifications by studying one day a week at college and obtaining TUC advanced union representative studies higher level.

I took early retirement in 2013 and joined the CSPA, where I became Chair. I enjoy line dancing and country dancing, card games, current affairs and listening to 1960s and 70s music. I also enjoy watching sport, in particular football, snooker, tennis and equestrian events.

I am asking for your vote to become the Eastern Regional Representative. I consider it is vital to facilitate a flow of communication with all groups in the region, even dormant ones. Many issues we face in the CSPA Eastern Region cut across CSPA sub-group boundaries – for example, transport, hospitals and housing. The more joined-up we are in our ways of working, the less duplication of effort and the easier it becomes for groups to get involved and feel their voices are heard.

Moreover, I aim to feed back to groups about my involvement with the CSPA executive committee, where permissible/appropriate, in order to keep you informed and updated about issues, and vice versa.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – WALES

**(NO NOMINATIONS  
RECEIVED)**

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – MIDLANDS

**(NO NOMINATIONS  
RECEIVED)**

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – SOUTH WEST

### LESLIE CALDER (LES)

My name is Les Calder, and I am grateful for the nomination to be the Regional Representative for the South West Region of the CSPA. I am supplying the details below as requested in relation to my wish to stand for election. I am married to Maggie and live in Bovey Tracey near Newton Abbot in Devon.

I have just recently reached the age of 76, having spent some 29 years as a civil servant between 1964 and 1993, working for the same department, which over the years had numerous titles, from the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance to DHSS (now DWP).

I had various different posts within the Executive Grades, most of which I quite enjoyed. Due to a road accident, occurring whilst working, I eventually had to retire early medically in 1993. After this, I very shortly joined the CSPA, at which time I was living near Truro in Cornwall.

Throughout my working life in the civil service I was a member of, at differing times, the civil service unions, first CPSA, followed by SCPS and then NUCPS. I served for some years as union representative in the Truro office (DHSS) for the CPSA and latterly SCPS, in addition to being Whitley Representative during some of those years.

In the Alliance, I was Treasurer of the West Cornwall Group for several years before moving from Cornwall to Devon in 2007. I then became a committee member of East Devon Group in Exeter and have been Chairman of this group since March 2013 until the present time.

As a delegate, I represented West Cornwall each year at conference from the mid-1990s

until 2007. Then, moving to Devon that year, I became delegate for East Devon and have continued in this capacity until the present time.

I appreciate very much the splendid job that Colin Fender has done as Regional Representative and from my connections with him as Chairman of the East Devon Group, I consider he will be a very hard act to follow. It is only because Colin has made it very clear to me that he wishes to relinquish his position that I now offer myself to be elected to the post. I trust that this might help with continuity for the South West Region of the Alliance.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – WESSEX

### ANTHONY HALL (TONY)

I was formerly employed as a research scientist in the Agricultural and Food Research Council. I led the departmental trade union side as Chairman for 11 years, during a period of major financial reductions and significant reorganisation with major staff reduction.

As a member of IPCS/IPMS (now Prospect) I served on committees at local, departmental and national level for over 30 years, ultimately as national Deputy Vice-Chairman and Vice-Chairman before retiring at 60. During my time on the National Executive Committee, I served amongst others on the Superannuation Committee, with a period as Chairman, and tutored at many Superannuation Schools and briefings. I also served on all the major NEC sub-committees at various times.

Insofar as the Alliance is concerned, I am a member of the Reading Group and served as Chairman from 2002 to 2018, when I handed

over those duties to my successor. I have been the Regional Executive Council member since 2002, and as member of the National Executive Council served on the Organisation and Recruitment, Campaigns and Health and Care Committees.

I am closely involved with the Thames Valley Pensioners Convention, for many years as Regional Chairman. I am now the Regional Treasurer. I represented the Region on the NPC Executive Committee. I currently represent the Alliance on the NPC Council. I have also represented the Alliance at the NPC Biennial Conference. The NPC provides a channel amongst others for progressing Alliance policies on wider issues that affect the older generation and is complementary to our affiliation with the Public Service Pensioners Council.

I consider it essential that we continue to play a role in both organisations to protect, promote and improve the both the state and occupational pension schemes, as well as improving the services the older generation require. We also need to work with organisation such Age UK and other bodies similar to the Alliance who are politically neutral in party political terms. It is also important we maintain our links with the trade unions that represent those employed in the civil and public sector.

After the pandemic, we need to rebuild our Groups and this will require a joint effort between Groups and the Regional Reps as well as recruiting new retirees to strengthen the Alliance. I ask for your support to help in this in the Wessex Region.

Outside the Alliance, my recreational activities include active participation in older generation sport and travel, as well as enjoying the delights of my seven grandchildren. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Alliance Executive and as the Representative for the Wessex Region.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – SOUTHERN

### GREG MOUNTAIN

I retired at 60 in 2012. My career spanned 37 years; as a local authority teacher, an accountant with the National Audit Office, a policy adviser in the Department for Work and Pensions and finally as an efficiency expert in HMRC. Throughout my career I was a trade union member with the National Union of Teachers and the now Public and Commercial Services Union. In my career I advised senior British and United Nations civil servants, as well as Government ministers in Britain, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In retirement, I am an active member of the Labour Party. Besides Treasurer of the Mid Sussex Constituency Labour Party, I held the Chair of the Haywards Heath Branch. In the 2015 and 2017 general elections, I was the Labour Party candidate for Mid Sussex. In both elections, my team and I increased Labour's vote share and lost out only to the sitting Conservative MP, Sir Nicholas Soames.

If elected to the Executive Council as Southern Regional Representative, I will bring my campaigning and programme management experience to add to the skills of other Council members. My aim would be to maintain the Alliance's focus on current issues facing members and help inform the Council on the strategic risks and opportunities we face at a time of increased pressure on intergenerational equality. In practical terms this means getting out to meet members and hear their views, as well as keeping myself informed about developments in politics and society that could impact on our members. I am a member of the Crawley & District Group of the Alliance. Last year, my efforts focused on the New CSPA programme, next year Southern Groups will be my focus.

## REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER – GREATER LONDON

### DR DAVID OWEN

Greetings from Selsdon, South Croydon. I have always been interested in supporting the welfare and working conditions of civil service colleagues. I worked in the Inland Revenue/ HMRC in a variety of roles from 1983 until retirement in 2017. I was a PCS union lay activist holding various roles, including London Region Secretary and Organiser, until the abolition of the department's regional structure, and our Branch Chair for 15 years. I received the PCS Revenue & Customs Group Exceptional Service Award in 2019. I have volunteered for the Charity for Civil Servants in various roles for 30 years, receiving the 2019 Connie Henry Award.

I joined the CSPA in 2013, when I partially retired, but did not become directly involved until 2017, when I fully retired. I have chaired the successful Croydon Group since 2018. In 2021, I volunteered to lead New CSPA Team 1, examining ways to boost recruitment of new members, which is critical to the longer term future of our CSPA. This is a work in progress that I should like to see completed. In April 2022 I became the London Regional EC member mid-term, so I am familiarising myself with the difficulties facing the existing groups to see how we may be able to support them going forward.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

### CHARLES COCHRANE (CHARLIE)

I am standing for re-election to the National Executive of the CSPA and seek your support. I retired at the end of 2010 as Secretary of

the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU), having worked for the civil service trade union movement since 1979. In that role, I was lead negotiator for the TU side in all the significant pension developments, good and bad, impacting on active, deferred and retired members of the PCSPS and by-analogy schemes.

I remain keenly interested in pensions and am the Chair of the trustees of an occupational pension scheme. I am also a trustee of major civil service charity the Civil Service Insurance Society Charity Fund (CSIS CF) and was a joint Chair of the Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB).

Valuable as our occupational pensions are, our state pensions are equally important now and in the future. The price of defending our pensions is eternal vigilance. This can only be done by a collective approach through the CSPA and its sister organisations. Our collective strength makes us a powerful campaigning organisation.

I believe my experience as a trade union official, and in my other roles, over the past 40+ years gives me the skills and competencies to make a positive and measured contribution to the work of the CSPA to defend your pensions and campaign on your behalf. It is not just the value of your pensions we must defend; we also need to ensure the processes by which they are paid to you are efficient, effective and fair. Recent experience has demonstrated this is not always the case. Whatever else the CSPA does, its work on civil service pensions must be its absolute priority. This is the reason we exist and why our members join us.

I hope that, in my years on the National Executive Committee, I have made a positive and collegiate contribution. My focus is on the finance and general purposes committees and the strategic reviews (including the New CSPA project) of our structures and activities, to ensure we are in good order to meet the many challenges facing us now and in future.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

### LES PRIESTLEY

I was elected to the Executive in 2012 and have found membership of the Council to be challenging and rewarding. Equally I am proud my local Group in South Yorkshire is thriving and active as our efforts at national level are helped by having a strong local presence.

We have much work and campaigning in front of us. If re-elected my priorities will be:

- The threat to occupational and state pensions (exacerbated by the soaring cost of living)
- The continuing crisis in social care affecting so many of our members.

We must be aware of the issues facing serving civil servants, our future members. I fully support the new strategies and systems developed by the Executive to recruit and retain members. I am proud the Executive's strategy has stemmed the worrying loss of members and that those policies have resulted in a significant improvement in the Alliance's financial health.

My working life was spent as an Inspector in the Revenue/HMRC. Elected to the IRSF National Executive in 1979, I served continuously on National and Group Executives of the PTC and PCS until 2010, when I stood down on taking partial retirement. I served eight years as Vice/Deputy President of those unions and President of the Revenue Group. My union experience involved direct negotiation with Government ministers and senior civil servants. I served as a Trustee of two union pension schemes, spending 10 years as Chair of one Trustee Board. I have tried to use these experiences in my CSPA work, in particular my knowledge of pension legislation, tax and organisational issues.

I ask for your support – feel free to contact me at [Imp229@me.com](mailto:Imp229@me.com)

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

### RICHARD WEST

I have been a member of the CSPA since taking early retirement in 1996, when the department I worked in was reorganised and shedding staff. I have been Norfolk Group delegate to the Alliance AGM since 2008 and Chair of the Group for the past 10 years.

I joined the Inland Revenue in 1960 as a shorthand typist but had the opportunity to train as a computer programmer, which led to a career in information technology. I am a Member of the British Computer Society. In addition to my work for the civil service, for 16 years I was a member of the Rail Passengers' Council and was then appointed as a member of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee for three years.

I have been a Trustee-Director of the UK Association for Accessible Formats (UKAAF) since its inauguration in 2009 and Chair for six years. UKAAF seeks to improve the social inclusion of print-disabled people by developing guidelines and minimum standards for producing information in formats accessible to people who cannot read standard print. I have been a Trustee of the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind for many years, taking a particular interest in its outreach work. I am a member of the board of the Norwich Credit Union.

I have always been a member of the appropriate trade union, so naturally became a member of the CSPA. I have enjoyed being a member of the EC for the past year, working on a group preparing proposed amendments to the Constitution and contributing to the work started last year on Improving our marketing, communications and member engagement. If re-elected to the EC, I will seek to play an active part in furthering the aims of the CSPA and pursuing matters raised by members.

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

### ROY LEWIS

I seek election for a 17th year on the Standing Orders Committee (SOC) because I want to be useful. I said the same 17 years ago and have tried my best since then.

Before retirement I served a number of years on my union's Standing Orders Committee and I feel I learned a lot that I can still put to good use.

I believe it essential that the SOC applies firmly the rules of the CSPA and abides by the precedents that you have created year by year in your discussions on Standing Orders. It is also important that the SOC remains independent of CSPA's leadership.

The SOC does its best, in the light of your previous decisions and the Rules – it is for the AGM to decide whether we were right.

I am sure that, while hoping for an early return to normality, we all express our thanks and gratitude to those who have kept the CSPA 'going' and functional during the difficult days.

the Labour Party. I was elected as the CSPA West Midlands Regional Representative in 2011 to 2016 and I sat on the NEC and on the Organisation and Recruitment committee.

I am currently Secretary of the CSPA Birmingham & District Group.

I am standing for the CSPA Standing Orders Committee. After many years attending union and party conferences, I believe I have an understanding of how these work and can bring fresh insight into the best order of business to ensure the best possible debate.

Thank you for your support.

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

### KEITH YALLOP

Aged 80, I retired from GCHQ Cheltenham in 2002. Prior to that I served 24 years in the communications branch of the Royal Navy. I moved to Cumbria (Whitehaven) on retirement and was chair of Cumbria North Group from 2008 until it unfortunately closed in 2015 as a result of dwindling support.

I also had the privilege of being North East and Cumbria Region representative between 2009 and 2015, during which time I served on the Alliance's Organisation and Recruiting and Finance committees, as well as being a member of the (then) Forward Options Working Party.

I have been a member of the SOC since 2016 and am keen to continue my involvement in the work of the Alliance.

If re-elected, I would look to continue to make a positive contribution to the Alliance and to SOC business.

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

### EILEEN TURNER

I took early retirement in January 2010 after 40 years working for the Ministry of Justice. I was a full-time elected officer of PCS and before that CPSA. I served on the MOJ GEC and was chair of the PCS MOJ West Midlands branch and also Midlands Region trade union side secretary for 30 years. I am a member of PCS ARMS.

In addition, I recently retired as a member of the Valuations Tribunal. I am a member of