

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)





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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2024

The 70th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance will be held in the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Warwick CV8 2LD on Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 October 2024. All paid-up members are entitled to attend and will be admitted on verification of their membership.

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

- Winter 2023 Issue 295 (for the report of the proceedings of the 2023 AGM)
- Summer 2024 Issue 297 (for Annual Report 2023)
- Autumn 2024 Issue 298 (for the agenda for the 2024 AGM and pen pictures of the candidates standing for the national CSPA 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 16 July 2024, reviewed all matters proper for the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the procedures and regulations set out in the CSPA Standing Orders (Appendix 1 of the CSPA 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 conducted according to the following timetable:

#### Wednesday Afternoon

2.00 – 2.15pm	Opening of AGM by the Town Mayor of Kenilworth
2.15 – 2.30pm	Chair's welcome and opening remarks
2.30 – 2.50pm	Report of the SOC (including appointment of Tellers)
2.50 – 3.00pm	Adoption of the report of 2023 AGM (see insert with The Pensioner, Winter 2023) and any matters arising
3.00 – 3.15pm	Presentation of Annual Report 2023
3.15 – 3.20pm	Presentation of Statement of Accounts 2023
3.20 – 3.25pm	Ballot for Chair opens

3.25 – 4.25pm	Section A: CSPA Business Motions A1 – A11
4.25 – 4.30pm	Chair election announcement; ballot for Vice Chair opens
4.30 – 4.40pm	Presentation: Organisation and Recruitment
4.40 – 5.10pm	Section A: CSPA Business Motions A12 – A15
5.10 – 5.15pm	Introduction of new candidates
5.15 – 5.20pm	Vice Chair election announcement; ballot for Executive Council members opens
5.20 – 5.30pm	Presentation (tbc)
5.30 – 5.40pm	Presentation (tbc)

#### Thursday

9.00 – 9.05am	Executive Council members and Regional Representative election announcement
9.05 – 9.15am	Presentation (tbc)
9.15 – 10.30am	Section B: Pensions and Related Matters Motions A16 – A29
10.30 – 10.45am	Presentation (tbc)
10.45 – 11.30am	Section C: Health and Social Care Motions A30 – A36
11.30 – 11.40am	Presentation (tbc)
11.40 – 12.15pm	Section D: Digital Exclusion Motions A37 – A38
	Section E: Transport Motions A39 – A41
12.15 – 12.30pm	Presentation (tbc)
12.30 – 1.15pm	LUNCH

1.15 – 2.30pm Section F: General  
Motions A42 – A54  
2.30 – 2.45pm Guillotined motions  
2.45 – 3.00pm Vote of thanks

3.00pm CLOSE OF AGM

**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 references to Conference and Meeting to AGM; 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 and in Group Circular 938 (May 2024) on the wording of motions, and that they can always seek advice on the wording of motions from the General Secretary or Deputy 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 a suitable comprehensive motion, designed to embody the main points of the constituent motions. However, there are no comprehensive motions for the 2024 AGM.

**D.** Groups and Branches whose motions stand alone (i.e. are 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 2024 AGM continue to demonstrate their traditional levels of co-operation, all business should be concluded satisfactorily. The SOC would again remind 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 09 October 2024**

**Afternoon session - 2.00pm to 5.40pm**

**Thursday 10 October 2024**

**Morning session - 9.00am to 12.30pm**

**Thursday 10 October 2024**

**Afternoon session - 1.15pm to 3.00pm**

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

**Motion X1** – If allowed and carried, this motion would have significant consequences as it would detach England and Wales from the Branches, requiring substantial additional constitutional changes such as removing references to the Branches throughout the Rules & Constitution. The motion includes commentary, which a Constitutional Amendment should not, so this is not a Constitutional Amendment.

**Motion X2** – The Resource Centre is an external body over which the CSPA has no control. The CSPA is governed by the Rules & Constitution as determined by the membership.

**Motion X5** – This is not Constitutional as the EC does not have unilateral powers to amend the Rules & Constitution.

**Motion X10** – This is not a Constitutional Amendment as the EC and SOC do not have constitutional authority to change the Rules & Constitution unilaterally or to ‘permit’ such changes without the agreement of the AGM.

**H.** The SOC has agreed that all other 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 Chair 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.** The SOC recommends that election results be announced as timetabled, and delegates are asked not to complete ballot papers until an announcement has been made by the Chair. Ballot papers are due to be completed and returned following the Chair's announcements, in accordance with the timetabled slots.

**K.** 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 09 September 2024.

**L.** 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 09 September 2024. 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.

**M.** In accordance with paragraph 13 of the CSPA Standing Orders, all emergency motions must arrive, by hard copy, at CSPA HQ by 2.00pm on Friday 4 October 2024.

**N.** 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.

**O.** The Chair 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 on 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.

**P.** 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 Chair and delegates against the motion to the right of aisle facing the Chair).

**Q.** 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 Chair, serving members of the Executive Council shall not be permitted to move motions on behalf of Groups or Branches.

**R.** In response to questions raised by delegates at recent AGMs, the SOC thought that it would be useful to remind, again, all attending the 2024 AGM of the Rules [Items 7(g) (i) and (ii) of the CSPA Rules & Constitution] covering voting by show of hands and by card at the AGM:

- *Voting shall be by show of hands or, where either the Chair 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 cards representing the total members of their Branch or Group, this to be determined on the basis of the number of members shown by the CSPA'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.*

**Note:** Members based in areas no longer covered by open Groups and Branches on 30 June of the current



year, who attend the AGM as individuals, are also entitled to vote and will be issued with voting cards on the basis of a single vote.

**S.** There will be an election for the five national posts on the EC. Two of these posts are reserved for women under Rule 7(e)(ii). Groups and Branches can vote for up to five people. The top five in the election will be elected to the EC provided that there are at least two women in the top five. If not, then the two highest placed women will be elected.

**T.** The SOC has noted that due to the election timetable spanning the general election, several motions referred to the current/next/future/previous government incorrectly and the SOC has taken a decision to make such minor amendments to the wording of these motions as may be necessary to aid their interpretation in this context.

**Keith Yallop (Chair, SOC)**

**Eileen Turner**

**Roy Lewis**

**Sally Tsoukaris (General Secretary)**

16 July 2024

## 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 CSPA policy and is accepted without debate**

**C indicating that the motion would reverse a decision made at the previous year's Annual General Meeting 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**

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 Chair, 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, or withdrawn.

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

### **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 Annual General Meeting, which shall be on or before 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.

### **Comprehensive Motions**

17. Where a number of motions are similar but not close enough to warrant their incorporation into a

composite motion, the SOC shall construct a suitable comprehensive motion, designed to embody the main points of the constituent motions.

18. In such circumstances, the comprehensive motion will be the substantive motion and will be moved by the representative of the Branch or Group first named in the SOC Report behind the comprehensive motion.

19. Only the mover of the comprehensive motion shall have the right of reply to the debate.

### **Speeches**

20. 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**

21. 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.

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

23. Any CSPA 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 Chair has given a ruling. The Chair may first consult the Standing Orders Committee. The Chair's ruling shall be final and not open to discussion.

24. The Chair 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.

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

### Voting

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.

### Appointment of Chief Scrutineer/Chief Teller and Scrutineers/Tellers

27. (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.

### Standing Orders

28. 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.

29. 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.







<b>NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS</b> (Note: 5 posts – of which 2 are reserved for women)	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/BRANCH</b>
Mike Buckley	Bedford & District
	East Solent
	Sheffield & District
	Teesside
Charles Cochrane*	Bedford & District
	Bournemouth & District
	Cambridge & District
	Crawley & District
	Inner London
	Leicestershire & Rutland
	Liverpool & District
	Norfolk & Suffolk
	Sheffield & District
	Southend & District
Pam Flynn	Greater Manchester
	Liverpool & District
Roisin Lilley	Northern Ireland Branch
Linda Ridgers-Waite	Bournemouth & District
	Crawley & District
	Sheffield & District
	Southend & District
Stuart Tarr	Bath
	Bristol
	East Devon
Richard West*	Bedford & District
	Bournemouth & District
	Crawley & District
	Gloucestershire
	Inner London
	Leicestershire & Rutland
	Liverpool & District
	Norfolk & Suffolk
	Sheffield & District

Rosemary White*	Bournemouth & District
	Crawley & District
	Croydon & District
	Hillingdon
	Inner London
<b>STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE</b>	<b>NOMINATING GROUP/BRANCH</b>
Roy Lewis*	Bedford & District
	Crawley & District
	Inner London
	Leicestershire & Rutland
	Norfolk & Suffolk
	Sheffield & District
Eileen Turner*	Bedford & District
	Birmingham & District
	Crawley & District
	East Devon
	Gloucestershire
	Inner London
	Leicestershire & Rutland
	Norfolk & Suffolk
	Sheffield & District
Keith Yallop*	Bedford & District
	Crawley & District
	Inner London
	Norfolk & Suffolk
	Scarborough
	Sheffield & District
	Teesside

\* indicates existing post holder

## AGENDA



### Wednesday Afternoon Session

2.00 - 2.15pm

**Opening of AGM by the Town Mayor of Kenilworth**

2.15 - 2.30pm

**Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

2.30 - 2.50pm

**Report of the SOC (including appointment of Tellers)**

2.50 - 3.00pm

**Adoption of the Report of the 2023 AGM (see insert with The Pensioner, Winter 2023) and any Matters Arising**

3.00 - 3.15pm

**Presentation of the Annual Report 2023**

3.15 - 3.20pm

**Presentation of the Statement of Accounts 2023**

3.20 - 3.25pm

**Ballot for Chair opens (Ballot papers are to be returned by 3.45pm)**

3.25 - 4.25pm

**Section A: CSPA Business  
Motions A1 – A11**

## Section A: CSPA Business Constitutional Amendments

**Note:** For Constitutional Amendments to be carried, a two-thirds majority is required in accordance with Rule 12 and the stipulations of Appendix 1 - Standing Orders, 26(d).

### MOTION X1

Insert the following wording in bold lettering in the second line of the title to read:

Rules & Constitution (England & Wales)

To follow the precedence of Scotland, Ireland and Malta who all have their own constitution for their members and are therefore not signatories (members) to this constitution.

**East Devon**

### MOTION X2

Insert in Rule 5) Executive Council

(a) The Executive Council shall manage business and undertake their roles in accordance with best practice for Unincorporated Association as published by the Resource Centre website.

Re-label the following:

- (a) to become (b)
- (b) to become (c)
- (c) to become (d)
- (d) to become (e)
- (e) to become (f)

**East Devon**

### MOTION A3

Delete- 5) e) completely

Insert- 5) e) The Executive Council may appoint sub-committees, which may contain persons not of its number (who nevertheless are CSPA members) and may delegate to any sub-committee none other than advisory powers.

**East Devon**

### MOTION A4

Rule 6 (c) (ii) Delete:

“Secretary (Organisation)”

and insert:

“CSPA Head Office”

**Executive Council**

### **MOTION X5**

The Executive Council is instructed to encourage and permit without hindrance or exception introducing as such Rule 7 changes as may be necessary to promote the formation of English regional branches, each with a formal committee structure based on regions or sub-regions that make geographic sense, whereby active groups which express a wish to do so merge to form larger groups within the region or regional branches and absorb into their membership those members who have no active group to represent them.

**Bristol Group**

### **MOTION A6**

Rule 7 (a) (i). Delete:

“Eighty of those entitled to attend shall constitute a quorum”

And insert:

“A quorum at a General Meeting shall be 50% +1 of all Group and Branch representatives, plus members not covered by a Group or Branch, who have registered their attendance at the venue.”

**Executive Council**

### **MOTION A7**

Rule 7 (a) (ii). Delete:

“and individual members attending shall bear any costs incurred”

And insert new rules:

“7 (a) (iii) The EC shall have discretion to meet from central funds the reasonable expenses of members attending who are not covered by a Group or Branch, with due regard to the overall cost.

7 (a) (iv) Other members shall bear their own costs, although the EC shall have the authority to meet part of the cost at their discretion.”

**Executive Council**

### **MOTION A8**

Rule 7 (b) (ii) Delete and insert:

“The Annual Report, Financial Statement and the Audited Accounts shall be provided to members timed to coincide with the circulation date of the June issue of the CSPA periodical.”

**Executive Council**

### **MOTION A9**

Rule 7 (b) (iv) Delete:

“shall be sent to all members in, or with, the September issue”

And insert: “shall be made available to all members from the issue date of the September issue”

**Executive Council**

### **MOTION X10**

The Executive Council is instructed to introduce a rule change to Rule 7(e) (iii) to permit individual members not represented by active groups to nominate themselves or others if willing to accept the nomination to fill vacant EC posts and to submit motions for debate and adoption at the AGM without the need for a seconder at the point of submission. The AGM to vote on individual nominations and motions taking into account the advice of the EC/ SOC. These arrangements to be actively promoted through The Pensioner, newsletters and other means to encourage take-up of revised Rule 7(e) (i-iii).

**Bristol Group**

### **MOTION A11**

In the interests of clarifying the rules and both maintaining and enhancing the democracy within the CSPA, this AGM agrees to amend the following rules to read:

That Rule 7 (f) (i) reads: “All elections for the Executive Council shall be conducted by a ballot of all individual members as identified in Rule 3 (b) (c) and (d).”

That Rule 7 (f) (ii) reads: “Those for the elected officers, five ordinary members of the Executive Council and Standing Orders Committee shall be voted upon by all individual members as stated in Rule 7 (f) (i).”

That Rule 7 (f) (iii) reads: “The nine regional seats on the Executive Council shall be filled as a result of votes cast by individual members from England and Wales, as defined in Rule 7 (f) (i).”

That Rule 7 (f) (iv) reads: “There shall be also two members on the Executive Council, appointed by the Scotland Branch, and one member on the Executive Council, appointed by the Northern Ireland Branch.”

**Greater Manchester**

## Section A: CSPA Business

### Other CSPA Business

#### **MOTION A12**

That this AGM notes with regret and alarm that CSPA membership is declining, yet the need to campaign in defence of the civil service pension is as urgent as ever. This AGM believes that having a target for recruitment would be a positive help in delivering this focus.

This AGM therefore urges the EC to adopt a target of stopping the reduction in total membership by the next AGM and further instructs the EC to prepare the ground for an overall growth in membership. This should include action to build an effective and constructive relationship with government and the pension administrator.

**Sheffield & District Group**

#### **MOTION A13**

This AGM notes with regret and alarm the continuing closure of local Groups but believes the CSPA must not be defeatist about this. AGM has previously set its face against moving to a regional structure. AGM believes that existing Groups can and should form the basis of revised local structures for members including through revised allocation of postcode areas. This AGM therefore instructs the EC to work with Groups to review and devise a redistribution of inactive Group postcode areas.

**Sheffield & District Group**

#### **MOTION A14**

This AGM is dismayed at the unreasonable deadlines set in respect of the material to be inserted in The Pensioner magazine. For example, the deadline for the September edition is the 25th June. This means that any articles are already largely out of date by the time the readership gets to see them. This is surely unprofessional at best and, at worst, a complete waste of time.

Furthermore, it is considered that details of all office bearers for each Region, Group and Branch would be better being returned to their former position on the early pages in The Pensioner magazine (rather than page 46 of the Summer Edition), to make it far easier for all members to access these.



4.25 – 4.30pm

**Chair election announcement  
Ballot for Vice Chair opens  
(ballot papers to be returned by  
4.50pm)**

4.30 – 4.40pm

**Presentation: Organisation &  
Recruitment  
David Luxton, Deputy General  
Secretary**

4.40 – 5.10pm

**Section A: CSPA Business  
Motions A12 – A15**

The AGM therefore instructs the Executive Council to communicate with Groups and Branches to discuss these matters and agree more reasonable deadlines and preferable layout for The Pensioner in future.

**Scotland Branch**

#### **MOTION A15**

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to reinstate the Newsletter of the Year competition with the winner awarded the Tom Hoyes Silver Salver at the AGM.

**Crawley & District Group**





5.10 – 5.15pm

**Introduction of new candidates**

5.15 – 5.20pm

**Vice Chair election announcement  
Ballot for Executive Council national  
posts opens (ballot papers to be  
returned by 5.40pm)**

5.20 – 5.30pm

**Presentation: Post General Election  
Political Landscape  
Connect (Speaker tbc)**

5.30 – 5.40pm

**Presentation: GDPR Update for Groups  
and Branches  
Affinity Resolutions – Bernard  
Seymour**

### Thursday Morning Session



9.00 – 9.05am

**Executive Council national posts  
and Regional Representative  
election announcement**

9.05 – 9.15am

**Presentation (tbc)**

9.15 – 10.30am

**Section B: Pensions & Related Matters  
Motions A16 – A29**

## Section B: Pensions & Related Matters Civil Service Pensions

### MOTION A16

This AGM notes that the Cabinet Office has awarded a contract to Capita to administer the Civil Service Pension Scheme (CSPS) from December 2025 for seven years with an option to extend by three years. MyCSP will continue in the intervening period. Capita claim they will use Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to transform our experience. However, the reports of serious failings of Capita's security to protect sensitive pensioner data, including even that of their own staff, gives serious cause of concern. Further, when Capita handed over to MyCSP the self-service capability we previously had was lost. It took over five years to recover it. We believe data security and a handover without any diminution of service should be priority issues and instruct the Executive Council to seek reassurances from the Cabinet Office and Capita on both these matters.

**Bedford & District Group**

### MOTION A17

Brothers and sisters who have lived together for many years/all of their lives should be allowed to register as Sibling Partnerships. This would give them the same legal and tax protection as well as benefits protection as married people. For example, if a brother or sister dies, the civil service pension perhaps representing half the family income would be lost and the other may be forced to sell the family home to pay Inheritance Tax. We call upon the EC to negotiate with Later Life Ambitions with a view to calling for a change in the law to enable brothers and sisters to form Sibling Partnerships.

**Inner London Group**

## Section B: Pensions & Related Matters State Pensions Taxation of Pensions Other Pension Related Matters

### COMPOSITE MOTION A18

#### To include Motion A19

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

This AGM notes with concern that the continuing freezing of income tax bands since 2021 is set to

continue until 2028 and is seriously eroding the value of pension increases, as millions of pensioners are now being dragged into the basic 20% tax threshold of £12,570. HM Revenue and Customs estimate that the number of over-65s paying income tax on their pension income has doubled since 2010 from 4.5 million to 9.1 million.

This AGM instructs the Executive Council to actively campaign for an end to this unfair stealth tax by raising the basic and higher rate income tax thresholds in line with inflation since 2021, and then automatically index-linked to inflation in subsequent years.

**Executive Council**

#### **MOTION A19**

This AGM notes that in 2024 pensioners received an increase in both state and civil service pensions. However, it is also noted that the tax thresholds have not been increased for several years. This has resulted in many pensioners paying tax for the first time on their pensions and, in many cases, have seen a reduction in their monthly income despite rises in pensions. The EC is instructed to urgently campaign on these issues and meet the relevant ministers to raise the tax thresholds.

**Birmingham & District Group**

#### **COMPOSITE MOTION A20**

**Falls if Motion A18 is carried, to include Motion A21**

*To be moved by Northern Ireland Branch and seconded by Leicester & Rutland*

This CSPA Annual General Meeting recognises that the real value of the state pension has been consistently reduced by the previous government's deliberate refusal to increase pensioners' annual tax-free allowance. All other taxpayers received tax concessions but shockingly pensioners were consistently isolated and penalised with no increases in tax relief. Although the cost-of-living increases received through the triple-lock mechanism are very welcome, in real terms, these gains are mostly totally lost by this grossly unfair tax policy. Pensioners' real standard of living has been deliberately attacked. It is scandalous that pensioners' share of the government's tax take has consistently increased over the years. What is needed from this government is a Triple Lock Plus policy whereby the state pension is not taxed. This

AGM calls on the incoming EC to vigorously pursue the government to adopt a Triple Lock Plus policy with regard to state pensions.

**Northern Ireland Branch**

#### **MOTION A21**

This AGM notes with concern that the tax-free allowance for both pensions and workers was frozen in 2021 at that year's level of £12,570 and is not set to rise again until 2028. The CSPA is therefore asked to campaign for a commitment from the government to raise the tax-free pension allowance every year in line with the triple-lock. This means an increase in line with average wages, inflation or 2.5%, whichever is highest. This will ensure that no civil service pensioner will ever pay income tax on the state pension part of their income.

**Leicester & Rutland Group**

#### **COMPOSITE MOTION A22**

**To include Motion A23**

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

This AGM notes that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Spring Budget announced that he is considering abolishing National Insurance contributions and hopes that this does not mean the ending of the state pension, which comes out of National Insurance contributions. Therefore, this AGM instructs the EC to campaign to retain National Insurance contributions to pay for state pensions.

**Inner London Group**

#### **MOTION A23**

The Executive Council is instructed to seek clarification from government about its intentions to phase out National Insurance contributions, how the shortfall in Exchequer income is to be replaced by general taxation or PAYE, and whether this is intended as a first step towards means-testing the state retirement pension to reduce pension and benefit-related costs.

**Bristol Group**

#### **COMPOSITE MOTION A24**

**To include Motion A25**

*To be moved by Bournemouth & District and seconded by Bedford & District*

This Group deplores the excessive and unwarranted provisions in the Data Protection & Digital Information Bill for accessing pensioners' personal bank details.

If implemented, the proposals would overturn the principle that citizens are ‘innocent unless proven guilty’.

The Group further deplores the Bill’s classification of the state pension as a benefit, when the amounts paid are determined by the pensioner’s National Insurance contribution record.

The government claims that the measures will help to detect and prevent fraud, despite the admission by Pensions Minister Mel Stride that ‘levels of fraud in state pensions are currently nearly zero’.

We therefore support the CSPA and its partners in their campaign for the amendments to safeguard the privacy of pensioners’ bank accounts and urge them to continue.

#### **Bournemouth & District Group**

#### **MOTION A25**

This conference instructs the Executive Council to oppose legislation which will allow the Department for Work and Pensions to require access to pensioner personal account information without any grounds for any suspected wrongdoing. This is included in the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill currently in the Lords. If passed the EC with our other pensioner partners shall then campaign to have it revoked.

#### **Bedford & District Group**

#### **COMPOSITE MOTION A26**

##### **To include Motion A27**

*To be moved by Wirral and seconded by Inner London*

This AGM notes the CSPA’s continuous supportive policy for the WASPI campaign, and the current position as described by David Hencke in the Summer edition of *The Pensioner*. It also notes and condemns the inexcusable administrative and political delays in making positive proposals to resolve this long-standing issue.

This AGM asks the Executive Council to vigorously and forcefully pursue a satisfactory and speedy resolution of this issue, together with campaigning support from our LLA partners in order to:

- a) Accept the Pension Ombudsman’s report and
- b) Pay the compensation without further delay.

#### **Wirral Group**

#### **MOTION A27**

This AGM notes the unwillingness of the government to compensate women who had been disadvantaged by the lack of public notice of the extension of their retirement years. It calls upon the EC to join with other groups to pursue justice for any of our members affected.

#### **Inner London Group**

#### **MOTION A28**

This AGM notes that the weekly difference between the old and new state pensions is now £51.70 per week and growing. This AGM believes that there are no rational grounds for this discrimination simply on the basis of your eligibility date, particularly as many older pensioners will have needed 44 years’ worth of National Insurance contributions in order to qualify for a full state pension. This AGM believes that the government should provide a timetable for a phased equalisation and instructs the EC to make representations accordingly to the DWP.

#### **West Yorkshire Group**

#### **MOTION A29**

The Executive Council is instructed to obtain from government a commitment that it will introduce a taper to Pension Credit so that state retirement pensioners on a very low income do not face a cliff-edge which denies them access to this top-up benefit if they exceed by a small margin the present





income and savings limits. Consideration should also be given to whether Pension Credit should be extended to those in receipt of the post-2016 new state retirement pension where equivalent financial need to those in receipt of the pre-2016 state retirement pension is demonstrated.

#### **Bristol Group**



10.30 - 10.45am  
**Presentation (tbc)**

10.45 - 11.30am  
**Section C: Health and Social Care**  
**Motions A30 - A36**

### **Section C: Health and Social Care**

#### **MOTION A30**

This AGM is disappointed at the lack of progress towards the integration of the NHS and Social Care. It therefore instructs the Executive Council to strenuously urge the Government to implement the strategy without delay.

#### **Crawley & District Group**

#### **COMPOSITE MOTION A31**

##### **To include Motion A32**

*To be moved by Sheffield & District and seconded by West Yorkshire*

That this AGM acknowledges current CSPA policies calling for urgent changes to tackle social care structural, management, financial, resource and cost issues that undermine the delivery of health, care and nursing for all users.

It also recognises that the CSPA does not have the resources to campaign alone for these changes. This AGM notes that the 2019 government's commitments contained only piecemeal proposals, with no urgent plan to replace the current, unequal, dysfunctional, disorganised, underfunded and under-resourced provision, so detrimental to our members who need access to those services.

This AGM calls on the EC to work closely with, and through, external partners to persuade the government to acknowledge the urgent need to deliver the finance, resource and administrative structure, which together will provide immediate access to effective, affordable social care for all who need it.

#### **Sheffield & District Group**

#### **MOTION A32**

This AGM notes that the previous government switched from an income tax cutting strategy to cutting National Insurance contributions, something which does not benefit anyone above state pension age. This AGM believes this is a deliberate strategy to partially counteract the working of the triple-lock, given that reneging on the triple-lock has become a near political impossibility.

This AGM also notes the continuing long-term failure to produce a workable policy for social care costs despite the Dilnot Commission in 2011 and many promises since.

Therefore, this AGM calls upon the government to commit the amount saved by cutting NI instead of income tax towards the social care budget and instructs the EC to campaign accordingly.

#### **West Yorkshire Group**

#### **MOTION A33**

This AGM calls upon the government to put general practice at the heart of its plan for the NHS. General practice is key to the health of the population, particularly older people, who are prone to suffer from co-morbidities and require a holistic treatment approach.

In the NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board area, the number of patients per GP has increased by 13.2% since 2019. In Shropshire, it has increased by 7.2%. Without the right action from the government, pressures on GPs will continue to rise, which will put not only patient care, but the entire NHS at risk.

Polling shows that 81% of the public want to see detailed plans to solve the problems facing general practice. This AGM commends the Royal College of

General Practice manifesto which sets out seven steps the government should take:

1. Protect patient safety – Introduce a national alert system to flag unsafe levels of workload and allow practices to access additional support
2. Guarantee patients get the care they need – Increase the share of NHS funding for general practice
3. Provide more support to patients – Review and reform the general practice funding system to channel more resources to the patients who need it most
4. Ensure every patient who needs to, can see a GP – Take action to grow the GP workforce
5. Provide patient access to a modern, fit for purpose practice building – Invest at least £2 billion in infrastructure
6. Free up GPs to spend more time with patients – Cut unnecessary bureaucracy
7. Make sure international GPs can continue to work in the NHS – Guarantee permanent residence for international medical graduates

This AGM calls upon the incoming CSPA Executive Council to work with like-minded bodies concerned with the health of older people, such as our LLA partners and the NPC, to highlight the continuing problems facing general practice and to seek long-term and sustainable solution.

**West Mercia Group**

#### **MOTION A34**

This AGM instructs the EC to seek an urgent review of Carer's Allowance.

**Birmingham & District Group**

#### **MOTION A35**

The Annual General Meeting notes that there are different practices across the devolved nations of the UK and the nature of the residential setting re the involvement of the older person re decisions which impact directly on them. This AGM calls on the incoming Executive Council to raise with the Westminster government and the three devolved administrations the need to ensure that there is consistent and quality assured accountability mechanisms throughout the care homes, hospitals and care settings for decision-making which involves older people.

**Northern Ireland Branch**

#### **MOTION A36**

This CSPA AGM recognises that many older people and their families are impacted by some of them suffering from dementia or one of its varieties. This terrible disease impacts on more people each year and we call on the Executive Council to strongly impress upon the new Westminster government and the three devolved administrations the need to provide more funding for research for a lasting cure and to provide increased chances for the family carers to get respite opportunities.

**Northern Ireland Branch**



11.30 – 11.40am

**Presentation: (tbc)**

11.40 – 12.15pm

**Section D: Digital Exclusion  
Motions A37 – A38**

**Section E: Transport  
Motions A39 – A41**

## Section D: Digital Exclusion Motions A37 – A38

### MOTION A37

The Executive Council is instructed to obtain from government a commitment that it will make it mandatory on government departments, large companies selling retail goods or services, or public utilities providing essential energy, water, telecom and digital services, to prominently display an easily accessible customer services telephone number on websites, correspondence etc, that will be responded to quickly in order to resolve customer queries or complaints. The Executive Council is also instructed to obtain from government a commitment to make it clear that it is unacceptable for government departments, companies or organisations to restrict customers needing assistance to obtain the help they need to using online chatbot virtual assistants or expect them to wait for excessively long periods for a telephone to be answered.

**Bristol Group**

### MOTION A38

This AGM notes the intention to transfer all phone systems to digital using the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). This AGM is concerned at the likely effect on those without internet/wi-fi and whose emergency lifeline systems depend on a landline phone. The EC is instructed to seek assurances there is a mechanism in place to ensure no-one is left without a landline and to ensure that lifeline systems have back-up in the event of a power cut or internet failure.

**Birmingham & District Group**

## Section E: Transport Motions A39 – A41

### MOTION A39

This AGM deplores the previous administration's selective, piecemeal approach to managing and funding all forms of public transport. This has been detrimental to many members, especially those living outside Greater London. This AGM welcomes initiatives such as the National Pensioners Convention's Better Buses campaign, but recognises the need to better coordinate provisions, access and interchange across all forms of public transport. The EC is instructed to identify issues key to the wellbeing of CSPA members,

and work with partner organisations and campaigners to press the government to recognise this and implement urgent change to address these issues.

**Sheffield & District Group**

### MOTION A40

This AGM welcomes the view of the Executive Council that they will campaign on the widening accessibility of public transport to pensioners. But this AGM is dismayed by the Department of Transport's response to the Parliament Petition 652985 'Negotiate UK-wide recognition of older person's bus passes'. The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) is a national set of minimum standards with some areas having better conditions. Bus franchising being devolved to Metropolitan Mayors, and the separate policies of the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, risks undermining national standards.

This AGM instructs the EC to press the Transport Working Group of the National Pensioners Convention to plan a campaign, along with others such as Age UK, promoting consistent and uniform standards for concessionary travel across the country.

**West Yorkshire Group**

### MOTION A41

The Executive Council are instructed to raise concern with the minister responsible for the present trend in local authorities for inconsistent design in constructing floating bus stops. These require bus passengers to cross a cycle lane that is either between the pavement and bus stop or bus. Ensuring the Highway Code 'hierarchy of road users' stated priority to pedestrians is met given the high speeds of the modern cycles that disadvantage those in later life who are less mobile and/or have limited sight.

**East Devon Group**



12.15 – 12.30pm

**Presentation (tbc)**

12.30 – 1.15pm

**LUNCH**

## Thursday Afternoon Session

1.15 - 2.30pm

### Section F: General Motions A42 – A54



## Section F: General

### COMPOSITE MOTION A42

#### To include Motion A43

*To be moved by Gloucestershire and seconded by Crawley & District*

That the EC is asked to campaign for the creation of the post of Commissioner for Older People as was explained by Independent Age at last year's AGM.

Older people often lose out on government and local authority assistance. They may have financial concerns, accommodation worries, care at home or finding a suitable care home. Problems encountered on leaving hospital whilst medically fit but unable to physically look after themselves. Many of these issues involve several departments or agencies. Digital exclusion does not always help so many are at a loss on where to begin in sorting out their problems.

What is needed is a champion who has the power to investigate and interfere with all such departments or agencies and resolve these issues. A Commissioner for Older People would be such a person.

**Gloucestershire Group**

### MOTION A43

This AGM gives wholehearted support for the campaign for independent Commissioners for Older People and Ageing in England and Scotland and instructs the Executive Council to do all it can in this respect.

**Crawley & District Group**

### MOTION A44

This AGM mandates the EC to campaign for the abolition of standing charges for utilities and for social tariffs to be available for those in receipt of Pension Credit, and to do so alongside other organisations with similar objectives.

**West Yorkshire Group**

### MOTION A45

The Executive Council are instructed to raise concern with the Minister of State for Energy and/or Ofgem to instruct utility companies to cease their unreasonable pressure on contacting customers continually to request that they sign up for monthly payment by bank transfers, rather than paying against actual meter readings quarterly that they wish to retain.

**East Devon Group**

### MOTION A46

The EC is instructed to open negotiations with the necessary department to ensure that smart meters are not compulsory, and consumers have the choice of whether to install them or not.

**Birmingham & District Group**

### MOTION A47

This AGM notes with great concern the presence of advisors around senior parliamentary figures who promote the idea that pensioners are under-taxed. This AGM rejects that view as ill-founded and divisive. This AGM instructs the EC to collect facts about the tax burden on pensioners and to promote an accurate picture with government.

**West Yorkshire Group**

### MOTION A48

There are circumstances where Inheritance Tax is unfair. For example, brothers or sisters living together pay the full rate and the survivor could be forced from their home to pay the tax. We call upon the EC to negotiate with Later Life Ambitions partners with a view of calling for the abolition of Inheritance Tax.

**Inner London Group**

### MOTION A49

As we get older our travel insurance has extra premiums added for age or pre-existing conditions. This means that our older members pay more Insurance Premium Tax than younger people who pay the Premium. This causes financial hardship to older people who are seeking to get some pleasure out of life. We call upon the EC to negotiate with partners and government to seek a sensible ceiling to the amount of Insurance Premium Tax they pay.

**Inner London Group**

## COMPOSITE MOTION A50

### To include Motion A51

*To be moved by Croydon & District and seconded by Crawley & District*

Just 5,747 bank branches remain open, with 266 pending closures, yet only 40 of the planned 100 Post Office Banking Hubs have opened. This AGM instructs the EC to work with partners and associate organisations to press for a faster and further extended rollout of the Post Office Banking Hubs combined with appropriate promotion to ensure their maximum effective usage, and also to press the larger banks to provide a fuller range of on-request services throughout their opening hours at their remaining branches.

**Croydon & District Group**

## MOTION A51

In view of the unrelenting closure of bank branches across the country, this AGM instructs the Executive Council to press government to ensure the speedy introduction of many more banking hubs.

**Crawley & District Group**

## MOTION A52

This AGM notes that pensioners, especially those without email or internet access, are particularly dependent on the postal service for communications from bodies such as the NHS, and from family and friends, and are therefore at heightened risk from exclusion and isolation if this vital public service is compromised.

Thus, the AGM expresses concern that Royal Mail is prioritising the parcel side of its business, leading to a deterioration in the speed and reliability of the post, and that it is seeking to restrict second-class mail deliveries to alternate days. It believes that Royal Mail's universal service obligation (USO), guaranteeing deliveries to all UK addresses on six days a week, must be maintained, irrespective of changes in the ownership or business practices of Royal Mail.

This AGM therefore instructs the EC to campaign for the maintenance of the USO in its current form, and to support campaigns by partnership organisations to this end.

**Cambridge & District Group**

## MOTION A53

This AGM is aware of current proposals for the Royal Mail to be sold off to an overseas investor 'Czech Sphinx'. Royal Mail currently has a £1.7 billion debt on the balance sheet and this investor proposes a further £2.3 billion debt, financed by international banks.

Past experience has shown that such a debt burden, especially at a time of elevated interest rates, would be financed by axing staff, slashing investments and disposing of assets such as Royal Mail's valuable property portfolio. Aside from the heritage of the Royal Mail, one of our oldest institutions, the financial structure of the deal will be deleterious to investment and the future of Royal Mail and of the universal service obligation which is particularly important to those of low income or are currently digitally excluded, particularly pensioners.

This AGM agrees that the government should block the proposed sale of the Royal Mail and that the CSPA, as a matter of urgency, uses all its influence through both the NPC and Later Life Ambitions to achieve this aim.

**Greater Manchester Group**

## MOTION A54

This AGM notes the success of Swiss activists in convincing the European Court that Swiss climate change legislation discriminates against older women. Noting that those most at risk from climate change in the UK are the elderly, both male and female, the EC is asked to investigate whether similar action, taken in conjunction with our allies, could be successful.

**Inner London Group**

2.30 – 2.45pm

**Guillotined Motions**



2.45 – 3.00pm

**Vote of Thanks**

3.00pm

**CLOSE OF AGM**

# Nominee Pen Pictures

## Chair **LES CALDER**

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I am supplying the details below as requested in relation to my nomination to be the next Chair of the CSPA. I am married and live in Bovey Tracey near Newton Abbot in Devon. We have one daughter, a former primary teacher, now working for Exeter University.

My working life has been in Cornwall with some 30 years as a civil servant between 1964 and 1994 working for the same department, which over the years had numerous titles between MPNI and latterly in my case DHSS (now DWP). I have had various different posts including Fraud Investigations, Compliance and Management. Due to a road accident, occurring whilst working, I eventually had to retire early on medical grounds in 1994 after which I soon joined the CSPA, which makes me a member of the CSPA for around 30 years.

Whilst in the civil service, as I progressed, I was a member of, at all times, the appropriate civil service unions, to cover my grades, including the CPSA, followed by SCPS and then NUCPS. I served for some years as union representative in the Truro office (DHSS) for the CPSA and then latterly in the same position for the SCPS, in addition to being the Whitley Representative which of course involved delicate

discussions with senior management. Since retiring, I have also been more involved with Benenden Health as a Branch Chair and now currently on their Member Council representing 20,000 South West members.

Regarding the CSPA, I was Treasurer and Delegate of the West Cornwall Group for 10 years and after moving to Devon became Delegate and Chair of the East Devon Group since March 2013 until the present time. For over approx 25 years I attended the AGM as a Delegate moving and speaking on motions each year. In October 2021 I was elected as the EC South West Regional Representative and have served on several recent CSPA Working Parties.

It is apparent to me that for the CSPA to thrive we must entail a type of regional structure to support active Groups (45%) but also ensure those in closed Groups (55%) are fully represented locally and at the AGM.

We need to modernise to some extent in order to attract new younger members who we should encourage to be involved in running our Groups.

I therefore ask for your support as I wish now to be your Chair to help, at these difficult times, preserve the membership and future of our CSPA.

## Chair **LES PRIESTLEY**

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I was elected as a CSPA Executive Council member in 2012. During my time on the Executive, three excellent Chairs have led the Council: Brian Sturtevant, Don Makepeace and Linda Ridgers-Waite. I have learned much from each of them and fully appreciate

what is expected of a CSPA Chair. I have found membership of the Council to be both challenging and rewarding. Equally, I am proud that my local group in South Yorkshire is thriving and active as work at national level is helped by having a strong local presence. We

must take steps to retain and indeed increase our membership. Our ultimate goal should be to ensure every member has a local or easily accessible point of contact.

My working career was spent as an Inspector of Taxes in the Inland Revenue/HMRC. For 30 years of my working life I combined my official duties with trade union work, serving on national and group executives of the IRSF, PTC and PCS unions until 2010, when I stood down on taking partial retirement.

I served for eight years as Vice/Deputy President of PTC and PCS and as President of the revenue group. My union experience involved direct negotiations with government ministers and senior civil servants.

Additionally, I served as a trustee of two pension schemes, including 10 years as chair of one trustee board.

I have used these experiences in my CSPA work, in particular my knowledge of pension legislation, tax and organisational issues.

When I retired, I continue to serve as a panel member on Employment Tribunals, combining

this with my work for the CSPA and two other voluntary organisations. I retired from the Tribunal service and my posts in the two other organisations earlier this year. This allows me the time to increase my level of involvement in CSPA affairs and give undivided time and commitment to the role of Chair.

This statement has been written before the result of the general election is known. Whatever the outcome it is clear that our campaigning on issues such as social care must continue, and indeed increase.

The CSPA was founded to protect the occupational and state pension rights of our members. That must remain our priority.

I am a firm believer in adopting a collective approach to campaigning with sister organisations. One such approach is the growth of our Later Life Ambitions partnership of which I've always been a keen advocate.

I believe I have the experience and commitment to perform the role of chair and ask for your vote. Feel free to contact me on [Imp229@me.com](mailto:Imp229@me.com)

## Vice Chair LES CALDER

I am supplying the details below as requested in relation to my nomination to be the next Vice Chair of the CSPA. I am married and live in Bovey Tracey near Newton Abbot in Devon. We have one daughter, a former primary teacher, now working for Exeter University.

My working life has been in Cornwall with some 30 years as a civil servant between 1964 and 1994 working for the same department, which over the years had numerous titles between MPNI and latterly in my case DHSS (now DWP). I have had various different posts including Fraud Investigations, Compliance and Management. Due to a road accident, occurring whilst working, I eventually had to retire early

on medical grounds in 1994 after which I soon joined the CSPA, which makes me a member of the CSPA for around 30 years.

Whilst in the civil service, as I progressed, I was a member of, at all times, the appropriate civil service unions, to cover my grades, including the CPSA, followed by SCPS and then NUCPS. I served for some years as union representative in the Truro office (DHSS) for the CPSA and then latterly in the same position for the SCPS, in addition to being the Whitley Representative which of course involved delicate discussions with senior management. Since retiring, I have also been more involved with Benenden Health as a Branch Chair and now

currently on their Member Council representing 20,000 South West members.

Regarding the CSPA, I was Treasurer and Delegate of the West Cornwall Group for 10 years and after moving to Devon became Delegate and Chair of the East Devon Group since March 2013 until the present time. For over approx 25 years I attended the AGM as a Delegate moving and speaking on motions each year. In October 2021 I was elected as the EC South West Regional Representative and have served on several recent CSPA Working Parties.

It is apparent to me that for the CSPA to thrive we must entail a type of regional structure to support active Groups (45%) but also ensure those in closed Groups (55%) are fully represented locally and at the AGM.

We need to modernise to some extent in order to attract new younger members, who we should encourage to be involved in running our Groups.

I therefore ask for your support as I wish now to be your Vice Chair to help, at these difficult times, preserve the membership and future of our CSPA.

## Vice Chair **ROISIN LILLEY**

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I joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in the early 1980s as a scientist. This was a challenging time to be a female scientist as most of my colleagues were male and of a different religious background to myself. I experienced firsthand sectarianism and sexual harassment. This only strengthened my resolve to fight for a better working environment and more equal treatment for all.

I joined NIPSA, the largest NI public sector trade union, and quickly became seconded to it. During my 11 years of secondment, I successfully represented many members and negotiated with Management Side on a variety of issues.

I was elected as Chair for NIPSA's Civil Service Executive Committee and in this capacity, I chaired not only our regular EC meetings but Annual and Special Conferences.

While holding this position I gained the wide respect of the Union's competing factions for my ability to demonstrate impartiality and leadership, bringing the best from Executive Members and providing regular support for the paid officials.

I represented NIPSA for several years at the all-Ireland ICTU Conferences and was one

of the ICTU representatives on the Northern Ireland Health and Safety Executive. There I ensured the safety and welfare concerns of workers across all sectors were represented.

I finished my working career under our locally elected Ministers. Again, this was a challenging time when I learnt to deftly navigate my way through local politics in a non-political manner.

I joined the CSPA on retirement as my late husband was very active in our local Branch. I had attended the CSPA AGM as his guest for several years before retiring, so was familiar with the organisation and its working. I have been the NI Membership Secretary and Treasurer for over three years. These are challenging and busy roles as we have no office or staff in NI.

I successfully stood for election to one of the Women's National seats on the CSPA EC. In an ideal world, we would not need reserved seats, but I believe if female members of the CSPA do not see reflections of themselves on our governing body, they are less likely to get actively involved in the CSPA.

I believe my experience would allow me to serve the CSPA well as Vice Chair, which is why



my Branch nominated me for the post when it became vacant mid-year. I was delighted to be elected. If re-elected to the Vice Chair position I will endeavour to serve and support all CSPA

members, local Groups and Branches as well as the Chair and our paid officials. I believe I will bring a different perspective while still respecting the history of the CSPA.

## Regional Executive Council – North East **ANDY AITCHISON**

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I am aged 66 and was born in Lewisham, South East London. I studied at Southampton University and started my working life at Midland Bank plc (now HSBC) in 1979. I joined the civil service in 1987 and worked in the Investigation Division of Customs & Excise in London and Leeds until 2003, when I moved to Sheffield, working as a Compliance Officer in Sheffield VAT office. 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.

I joined the CSPA soon after retirement and began attending meetings of the Sheffield & District Group, becoming their Secretary in October 2015. I was then privileged to first be nominated for the post of North East Regional Representative in October 2019.

In addition to my CSPA Executive Council commitments I often attend local meetings of the Yorkshire & Humber Pensioners Convention and am a CSPA delegate on the NPC Executive Council. I am also currently on the Finance Working Party of the NPC nominated by YHPC.

If re-elected as North East 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 will also take steps to try and involve as many members in the region as possible, whether they have access to a local group or not. I am aware of how hard Group officers in the region work and how passionate they are in regard to civil service pensioner issues and concerns. I thank them all wholeheartedly for their valuable contributions.

As we are now in the early stages of a new government, it is vitally important that the CSPA continue to highlight the issues important to civil service pensioners and above all work hard to protect the civil service pensions that our members have worked so hard to earn.

The message I would like to send to all members in the North East region is please give as much support as possible to the CSPA. Take an active role in your local group if you can by attending local meetings if at all possible.

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## Regional Executive Council – North West **HARRY BRETT**

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I am seeking election as the North West Regional Representative. I am 77 years old and I live in Holmes Chapel. I currently hold the post

of Treasurer for the Greater Manchester Group. I am also acting as Treasurer for the Liverpool & District Group to help to ensure that the Group

continues as a functioning group. I joined the civil service in 1963 from school with Post Office telephones. 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 for the North West and Wales. I was always a member of the relevant trade union, first the Prison Officers Association and later the Prison Governors Association. I was on the NEC with the PGA from 1987 until my retirement and was General Secretary for three years.

I started the Manchester Group with John Eastwood. The Group has continued to thrive, combining first with the Bolton Group and then Stockport to become the Greater Manchester Group with over 1,000 members. I also for a time last year was liaising with the Groups in the Midlands Region, but I am pleased to say that they now have their own representative.

I was first elected to the CSPA EC in 2019 and

just prior to the pandemic, I was attempting to restart the non-active groups in the North West. I have visited each of the non-active Group areas in April/May of this year in the hope of restarting the Groups, or at least attempting to improve the representation of those members who belong to non-active Groups. I also visit all the active Groups on a regular basis. I try to keep in touch with members who do not belong to a Group by sending those who have signed up a monthly newsletter.

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 raising of the age limit to be entitled to free prescriptions, just to mention a few areas of concern.

Internally, the erosion of membership totals is of a major concern, and we need to increase the membership of the CSPA as a priority.

I would ask for your support.

## Regional Executive Council Member – Eastern **SUSAN HENNAH-BARHAM**

I am the current Eastern Regional Representative and I am asking for your vote to let me be the representative for another year. I have been a member of several working groups this year and attended EC meetings.

I was born in London near Warren Street in 1953. I worked at various jobs after leaving school in 1971. In 1974, I joined the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in Holborn, and the CPSA union at the same time. I had several posts in MAFF in London including Personnel and Food Standards policy work.

In the 1980s after the birth of my daughter I transferred to MAFF Cambridge regional office where I worked in the Emergencies and Defence section. Following MAFF being rebranded as DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs), I was moved to Natural England (NE), a DEFRA agency. NE set up a partnership agreement with a joint PCS and Prospect Union side. As I had been a PCS Union representative for over 15 years, I was pleased to take the role of Union Side Vice Chair, as well as continuing to be a manager in NE Green schemes. 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 CSPA Cambridge & District Group, where I became Chair. I enjoy dancing to 60s and 70s music including Northern Soul and listening to Boom radio. I also like watching sport in particular football and equestrian events.

## Regional Executive Council Member – Midlands

### **KEVIN BILLSON**

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I am 60 years old, married with three sons and live in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. My interests are football (Arsenal and Melton Town), vinyl records and walking. I have climbed 180 of the 214 Wainwrights in the Lake District and this year completed the Rutland Round and Three Peaks of Yorkshire (23 miles in 12 hours).

My entire 36 year civil service career was spent in the Prison Service, which I joined in 1986 straight from Huddersfield Polytechnic in which I gained a BA(Hons) Humanities degree studying English, History & Drama. I retired on my 58th birthday in September 2022.

I have been a committed trade unionist throughout my prison career as a member of the Prison Governors' Association. I became an elected member of the PGA NEC in 2005 and was awarded Distinguished Life Membership of the PGA on retirement. I'm now a committee member of the Retired section of the PGA.

I joined the CSPA in November 2023 and almost immediately agreed to nomination for the vacant Midlands Regional Representative post. I have now also taken on the role of Secretary for the Leicestershire & Rutland CSPA Group. I spent my initial six months as Midlands Regional Representative in getting to know the four active groups in my Region by attending their meetings. Over the last few months I have turned my attention to the membership that is not represented by an active Group to see if there is any interest in re-starting any of the four closed Groups in the Midlands.

If re-elected, I see my role going forward as one of facilitating communication between Midlands members and the EC in helping to mould a future in which all members get opportunities to influence policy and governance and participate in events, even if not part of an active Group.

## Regional Executive Council Member – South West

### **LES CALDER**

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I am supplying the details below as requested in relation to my nomination to be the South West Regional EC Member. I am married and live in Bovey Tracey near Newton Abbot in Devon. We have one daughter, a former primary teacher, now working for Exeter University.

My working life has been in Cornwall with some 30 years as a civil servant between 1964 and 1994 working for the same department, which over the years had numerous titles between MPNI and latterly in my case DHSS (now DWP).

I have had various different posts including Fraud Investigations, Compliance and Management. Due to a road accident, occurring whilst working, I eventually had to retire early

on medical grounds in 1994, after which I soon joined the CSPA, which makes me a member of the CSPA for around 30 years.

Whilst in the civil service, as I progressed, I was a member of, at all times, the appropriate civil service unions, to cover my grades, including the CPSA followed by SCPS and then NUCPS. I served for some years as union representative in the Truro office (DHSS) for the CPSA and then latterly in the same position for the SCPS, in addition to being the Whitley Representative, which of course involved delicate discussions with senior management.

Since retiring, I have also been more involved with Benenden Health as a Branch Chair and now currently on their Member Council

representing 20,000 South West members.

Regarding the CSPA, I was Treasurer and Delegate of the West Cornwall Group for 10 years and after moving to Devon became Delegate and Chair of the East Devon Group since March 2013 until the present time.

For over approx 25 years I attended the AGM as a delegate moving and speaking on motions each year.

In October 2021, I was elected as the EC South West Regional Representative and have served on several recent CSPA Working Parties.

It is apparent to me that for the CSPA to thrive we must entail a type of regional structure to support active Groups (45%) but also ensure those in closed Groups (55%) are fully represented locally and at the AGM.

We need to modernise to some extent in order to attract new younger members who we should encourage to be involved in running our Groups.

I therefore ask for your support as I wish now to continue to be your South West Regional EC Member to help, at these difficult times, preserve the membership and future of our CSPA.

## Regional Executive Council Member – Wessex **JOHN CLARKE**

I worked in the Inland Revenue from 1974 to 1980, where I was active in the Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

I then got a position in the Society of Civil Servants (which following mergers became the NUCPS, the PTC and finally PCS). When I left the PCS in 1988, I was a Senior National Officer.

Living in Gosport and being a keen sailor, I decided to open a sailing school and yacht charter business, which combined my hobby with a career. This I did, successfully, until I retired

about four years ago. During my time running my own business, I became active in my trade association, the Marine Leisure Association, and spent a few years as Chairman.

I joined the CSPA in January this year, and at the February meeting was asked if I would take over as Group Treasurer!

Then I was made aware of the vacancy as Regional Executive Council Member for Wessex – and here I am!

## Regional Executive Council Member – Greater London **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, and have been the London Regional Representative since April 2022, when I took over mid-term.

One of my key aims is to maintain regular exchanges between myself and all London Groups to ensure I have a clear picture of their views on key matters and to assist where appropriate.

In early 2021, I volunteered to lead New CSPA Team 1 examining ways to boost recruitment of new members. Recent membership numbers clearly demonstrate

that, even with the success of our new website, recruitment and retention matters will continue to require considerable further work and resource allocation, whilst protecting our digitally excluded members, to remove a potentially existential threat to our CSPA.

With the support of our remaining active Groups in London, we are now implementing a project to give 'no Group' members allocated to long-closed Groups which have been unable to restart, a voice in our democratic processes by transferring them to neighbouring active groups.

## Regional Executive Council Member – Wales **NO NOMINATION RECEIVED**

### National Executive Council **MIKE BUCKLEY**

Though a comparatively new member of the CSPA, time is inevitably short, so I'm not being slow in coming forward.

I fully retired from the civil service at the end of 2023 with over 48 years' service. Always a trade union member, I was active for many of those years.

In my youth, I was departmentally very active in SCPS/NUCPS, then in later years becoming one of the longest serving members of the FDA national Executive, including serving as Treasurer and leading the DWP Branch for nearly 15 years.

Now in the CSPA I chair the Sheffield & District Group and have served on the CSPA's Regional and Group Structure and AGM Format Working Parties. I therefore have real experience of, and understand the difference between, management and governance.

So, what do I offer for and want of the future?

I have a determination to see the CSPA continue to develop. Our campaigning activity is vital: we will always need to defend the civil service pension. But to be able to campaign, we must not overlook recruitment and organisation of members.

(Writing this before the 2024 general election, I say this whatever the outcome!)

I bring a passion for this in my contribution to the leadership and direction of the CSPA as the 21st century matures. Our internal administration is modernising to great effect.

With your support for my candidacy for the CSPA's Executive Council, I look forward to working with EC and Regional colleagues and CSPA staff to address the challenges and deliver for members.

I hope these notes help secure your support. Happy to respond to questions at [jmw Buckley@hotmail.com](mailto:jmw Buckley@hotmail.com)

## National Executive Council **CHARLIE COCHRANE**

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I am standing, yet again, for re-election to the Executive Council of the CSPA and seek your support.

I retired, aged 60 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 the lead negotiator for the trade union side in all the significant pension developments, both good and bad, impacting on active, deferred and retired members of the PCSPS and by-analogy schemes. I remain keenly interested in pensions generally, and am the Chair of the trustees of an occupational pension scheme. I am also a trustee of a 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 to us, our state pensions are equally important now and in the future. The price of defending all of our pensions is eternal vigilance. This can only be done effectively by a collective approach through the CSPA and its sister pensioner organisations. Our collective strength makes us a powerful campaigning organisation for our members.

I believe my experience as a trade union

official, and in my other roles over the past 50+ years, gives me the skills and competences to make a positive and measured contribution to the work of the CSPA to defend our pensions and to campaign on your behalf. Of course, it is not just the value of your pensions which we must defend but we also need to ensure the processes by which they are paid to you are efficient, effective and fair.

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 joined us and will, I hope, continue to join us long into the future. For this to happen we must continue to demonstrate our relevance, our expertise, effectiveness and that we represent value for money to all of our members, be they active or not.

I hope in my years on the EC, where I am now the longest serving elected member, I have made a positive and collegiate contribution to its work. My particular focus is to be a critical friend to the officers and staff at the Finance and General Purposes Committees and on the strategic reviews of our structures and activities, to ensure we are in good order to meet the many challenges facing us both now and in future years.

## National Executive Council **PAM FLYNN**

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I joined the CSPA in 2010 and have been an active Group member since joining. I am currently elected Chair of North-West Pensioners and Secretary of the Greater Manchester Group of the CSPA. Prior to election as Secretary in 2023, I was Chair of the Group for about a decade. With other officers in the Group, I have overseen a merger with Bolton Group and the creation of Greater Manchester Group.

I am 74 years old, and civil partnered with Lydia Meryll. Growing up working class in industrial South Wales, I was raised a socialist and the habit has never left me.

I try to bring good humour and friendship into changing the world for the better. I work for social and political change, peace and climate justice. I have a range of experience supporting lesbian and bisexual asylum-seeking women.

I am active within Greater Manchester on the older people's policy agenda around social care, housing and climate change.

With a group of friends, I am seeking to develop a cohousing project in South Manchester – MUCH – Manchester Urban Cohousing. I

believe that intentional community living is not given enough attention by housing policy makers and developers.

I also like to walk, keep flexible, grow vegetables, cook and eat good food, watch birds and sing.

## National Executive Council, Post Reserved For A Woman **ROISIN LILLEY**

I started my career in the scientific side of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) in the early 1980s. This was a challenging time to be a female scientist as most of my colleagues were male and of a different religious background to myself. I experienced firsthand sectarianism and sexual harassment. This only strengthened my resolve to fight for a better working environment and more equal treatment for all.

I joined NIPSA, the largest NI public sector trade union on my first working day and quickly became seconded to it.

During my 11 years of secondment, I learnt how to successfully represent members and negotiate with Management Side on a wide range of issues.

My late husband, Jim, was very active in our local CSPA Branch, so I attended the CSPA AGM as his guest for several years before I was able to join the CSPA on my retirement.

When Jim passed away, the NI Branch asked me to take his place on the EC until the AGM in October, after which our new Branch Secretary took over. I attended the AGM in Coventry that year as the NI EC representative.

I am the NI Membership Secretary and Treasurer, holding both posts for over three years. These are challenging and busy roles as we have a large membership and no office or staff in NI.

I was privileged to be elected to the National Women's seat mid-year and then re-elected again at the AGM.

In an ideal world we would not need reserved seats. Unfortunately, humans tend to emulate what we see and if female members of the CSPA do not see reflections of themselves on our governing body, the EC, they are less likely to get actively involved in the CSPA.

Women make up the majority of our members, have had different experiences of working and often face different challenges to men on retirement.

To be truly reflective of all our members, we need to hear all their voices. I have experience of quite often being the only female in a male environment so passionately believe we need to encourage more females to become actively involved in our decision-making bodies.

If re-elected, I would not do this at the expense of our male members but would seek to represent everyone to the best of my ability. I believe I have demonstrated this so far in my time on the Executive Council.

## National Executive Council, Post Reserved For A Woman **LINDA RIDGERS-WAITE**

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This year, I am standing for one of the reserved national seats for women.

I have had a very busy time as Vice Chair, acting Chair and Chair of the CSPA. The 2024 AGM will be my third AGM in the Chair. This is always an honour.

Chairing a meeting requires objectivity and implementing the rules of debate. I have worked hard to be as objective and knowledgeable a Chair as I can possibly be. I would now like to dive into and participate in the tussles of policy development. My time as Chair for AGM, EC and all the EC sub-committees provides a wide-ranging and detailed perspective.

I began working for the civil service as a casual, eventually becoming an Inspector of Taxes. I was also an active national elected official of three trade unions, as we went through three mergers. This involved representing members collectively at office, regional and

national level, negotiating with a wide range of local and national officials. I also supported many members through personal and office difficulties.

I later worked for 13 years in the HMRC HR directorate, which involved investigating complaints, drafting replies to ministerial and other Chief People Officer correspondence, leading the HR strand for a large national recruitment project, trouble shooting (and solving!) large team problems and all the other issues which HR has to sort out. My most enjoyable job was leading a large UK team of welfare and HR technical officers.

I have never had the opportunity to belong to a Group (though visiting a number). I want to support Groups and solve the democratic deficit for people outside of Groups.

If elected, I shall do my very best for members and the CSPA as we move through difficult times.

## National Executive Council **STUART TARR**

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I began my civil service career as a clerical assistant working for GPO Telephones in 1965. A year later I found myself working for the Ministry of Labour in Exeter as a clerical officer following a local recruitment exercise. It was there that I met my wife Pam.

A number of moves and several promotions later, during which time our son and daughter came along, we finally settled in Bristol where I worked for the Government Office for the South West as a senior executive officer/acting principal on regional economic development and support for business until I retired in 2011.

So what would I stand for if appointed as one of the five EC members? Well, I have never been a TU official, although I have sat

on the management side of Whitley. This may be a strength as we look ahead to a falling membership and Groups closing if the CSPA is to remain relevant in representing the needs of its members to government in protecting pensions and access to vital public services, including health and social care in later life.

Are we too hide-bound by TU derived processes and procedures? Is our organisation and structure right for the present day led by a general secretary and an executive council, or should it be a chief executive supported by a board to include non-executive directors?

Should we shy away from asking these questions or confront them through an honest and open appraisal of where we are and



where we are going if we are to rebuild our membership base, exercise the influence we need, and persuade government departments to reopen their doors so that we can recruit new members?

I have an open mind, but I do think we should begin a conversation about the need to modernise, including how we organise and conduct our business through the use of new technology. We need to attract younger, newer members about to retire and increase the participation of existing members who may not

be able to attend our AGM but would appreciate the opportunity to observe the event from the comfort of their own home via live streaming.

And should we continue to insist on wet ink signatures when submitting constitutional amendments, motions and nominations, or should we brace ourselves to permit e-signatures where groups find this more convenient in order to streamline the submissions process?

It is for you to decide: to modernise our procedures or continue largely unchanged as we do now with a falling membership still in decline.

## National Executive Council **RICHARD WEST**

I have been a member of the CSPA since taking early retirement in 1996, when the department I was working in was being re-organised and shedding staff.

I was Norfolk Group delegate to the CSPA AGM from 2008 for 14 years and have been Chair of the Group for the past 11 years (now the Norfolk & Suffolk Group).

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 served as 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 was a Trustee of the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind for many years, taking a particular interest in the outreach work of that Association; standing down to give time to join CSPA EC.

I am a member of the Board of the Norwich Credit Union.

Throughout my work I have always been a member of the appropriate trade union, so I naturally became a member of the CSPA.

I have enjoyed being a member of the EC for the past two years. In addition to the general activity, I have been a member of the Working Party seeking to improve the Group/Regional structure.

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.

## National Executive Council, Post Reserved For A Woman **ROSEMARY WHITE**

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As a civil servant, I have worked in the Lord Chancellor's Department, now the Ministry of Justice, the Houses of Parliament, Department for Transport and worked as a Personal Secretary and as an Administrative Officer when I worked in a Ministerial Correspondence Unit.

I was active in the PCS Union Branch Executive Committee in the Lord Chancellor's Department and Department of Transport and was Secretary of the PCS Union Branch Executive Committee, working closely with John Maloney, who became and was the Assistant General Secretary of the PCS Union.

Since becoming an Executive Committee member, I have done the following:

- Attended meetings of the Campaign Committee and Executive Committee
- Received numerous emails and papers from the CSPA on Executive Council business and areas of concern to the CSPA, which I have commented on by email, where asked for
- Drafted emails and attachments on subjects that are important to pensioners and women pensioners.

I have drafted emails and attachments to CSPA HQ staff on the following subjects: underpayment of women's pensions, the triple-lock in the next Parliament, pensions – fiscal drag, freezing of tax allowances, retirement income needed, and CSPA recruitment and raising funds for the CSPA amongst other emails.

I have drafted two articles on scams, one long one which I hope to put on the website and one shorter one that I sent to Christine Buckley, the editor of The Pensioner, for publication in The Pensioner.

I have also written letters and lobbied politicians on matters that affect pensioners like the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill and the state pension age.

I have received correspondence from the Head of the Ministerial Correspondence Unit at the Department for Work and Pensions in reply to correspondence I sent to the DWP.

I have drafted two long documents on the state pension age, setting out the problems of increasing the state pension age and proposing that the civil service and doctors research the various aspects of increasing the state pension age and making proposals rather than leaving it all to the politicians to decide upon.

I am also having a meeting to discuss it with Jan Shortt, General Secretary of the National Pensioners Convention, Unite, the Union, someone from the TUC, PCS Union, PCS ARMS and Scottish Pensioners Forum.

I have also helped out one or two members with their pension queries.

I have given talks to members at various London Groups of the CSPA.

## Standing Orders Committee **ROY LEWIS**

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I seek election for a 18th year on the Standing Orders Committee (SOC) because I want to be useful. I said the same 18 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 the 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.

## Standing Orders Committee **EILEEN TURNER**

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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 the Labour Party.

I was elected as the CSPA West Midlands

Regional Representative in 2011 to 2016 and I sat on the EC 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 **A E KEITH YALLOP**

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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 & Cumbria Region Representative between 2009 and 2015, during

which time I served on the CSPA's Organisation & 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 CSPA. As in previous years, if re-elected, I would look to continue to make a positive contribution to the CSPA and to SOC business.

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