

68

is too late!



Say NO to a higher State Pension Age

The latest research shows that rises in life expectancy have now come to a halt for the first time in 100 years. The average age for men in the UK is now 79 and for women it's 83, yet the government has said it wants to increase the state pension age (SPA) to 68 - seven years earlier than expected.

Under existing legislation, all those born after April 6 1978 already face a SPA of 68, and this proposal does nothing to alter that. However, around six million people born between April 6 1970 and April 5 1978 will – if the plans are introduced – see their SPA of 67 rise in stages to 68. This group is currently aged between 39 and 47.

But there is no evidence to support this move:

- The UK already suffers from massive health inequalities, based on profession, income, location and class. Research shows that the north-south divide in longevity is the widest for 40 years with northerners 20% more likely to die before 75 than southerners
- Not everyone will be able to keep working up to the SPA either through ill health or unemployment. Groups like family carers and disabled workers are particularly vulnerable and many will find they are too old for work, but too young to retire
- Millions of future workers will rely on the state pension to fund their retirement, so raising the SPA means that they will end up working longer, paying more and getting less
- The government's plan of linking the SPA to average life expectancy is unlikely to help those whose longevity is already low, and will inevitably have the greatest impact on those in lower paid jobs, doing manual or stressful work, in poorer health and in the more deprived areas of the country
- The NPC believes the SPA should stay at 66 for men and women

The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) is Britain's biggest pensioner organisation that campaigns on all the issues affecting both today's and tomorrow's pensioners. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter or visit www.npcuk.org to sign up to receive further free information about our work.