

John Thurso MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22nd January 2009

Dear John Thurso

Response from Under Secretary of State for Defence
And Minister for Veterans, Mr K Jones MP

In preparing the application for submission to the Ombudsman there is a requirement to forward copies of written correspondence and replies between the responsible Government Minister and the applicant.

Would you therefore please request the Minister of Defence, Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP, to answer the following specific questions which Mr K Jones MP, as a junior Minister, is unable to answer?

Please explain

1. Why the Government refuses to accept, or carry out its Parliamentary Duty, in accordance with Command 675, presented to Parliament February 1959 and effective from 1st April 1959 as confirmed by Command 945, 1960.

This Command 675 accepted the recommendations following the Sir James Grigg Report Command 545, 1958 Paragraph 264 Recommendation (XII).

That an ex-regular taking up an established job in Government should have the option (on repayment of any non-effective benefits earned by service in the Forces) of counting that service as if it were unestablished service for the purposes of Civil Service superannuation.

Could the Minister of Defence also explain how this Parliamentary Duty could possibly be applicable to any other employees besides ex members of the Armed Forces, as claimed by Mr K Jones MP?

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Please explain

2. Why the Government refuses to accept, or carry out its Statutory Duty, in Accordance with the Social Security Act 1973 38/Schedule 16 Transitional and Transfer Preservation of Benefit arrangements, under Occupational Pension Schemes for those ex members of the Armed Forces transferring to other than the Civil Service Superannuation Scheme?

Section 63 (1) Paragraph 3 (1)

'Pensionable Service', in relation to a scheme and a member of it, means service in Relevant employment which qualifies the member (on the assumption that it Continues for the appropriate period) for long service benefit under the scheme, **including service before the appointed day. i.e. 6th April 1975.**

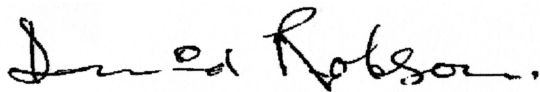
Could the Minister of Defence also state categorically who the other employees are, either Public or Private, besides ex members of the Armed Forces whose Transitional and Transfer long service benefits were not taken into account when transferring from one occupational pension scheme to another after 1975 as Claimed by Mr K Jones MP?

Please explain

3. Why Contributions made to the Civil Service Widows Pension Scheme pre 1978 have not been refunded to the Contributors following the post 1978 Widow's Pension Scheme arrangements?

Finally would you please request the Minister of Defence to reply to these questions personally.

Yours sincerely



David Robson
Secretary General
The Combined Armed Forces Federation U.K.