Dear (insert name of candidate)

I live in (name of constituency) and I am writing to you about four key issues that are of concern to me.

I am a member of the Public Service Pensioners’ Council (PSPC). The Council represents the interests of the main public service pensioners’ organisations. Our members include groups representing retired Police Officers, Firefighters, College Lecturers, Civil Servants, Teachers, Prison Officers and the Armed Forces and between us we represent more than a million members.

As my parliamentary candidate, I am writing to ask if you will support our campaign for Public Service Pensioners:

**1. Will you commit to maintain the triple lock and ensure that all state pensions are set at well above the poverty level?**

The “triple lock” continues to play an important role in protecting the poorest pensioners from increases in the cost of living. We want to see the level of state pension set significantly above the poverty level, so that those who rely on it can enjoy security and dignity in retirement. State and public service pensions should be uprated using a fair and realistic rate of inflation and we support the introduction of CPIH and the development of a Household Inflation Index.

**2. Will you commit to maintain Universal Pensioner Benefits?**

Universal Pensioner Benefits were originally introduced to top up the low value of the state pension. Even so 1.6 million pensioners are still living in poverty and a further 1.1 million have incomes just above the poverty line. Free prescriptions, concessionary bus passes, winter fuel allowance and the free TV licence continue to play a vital role in reducing pensioner poverty and enabling an active later life.

**3. Will you commit to ensure that all widows and widowers public service pensions are pensions for life?**

Some public service pension schemes cease to pay a widow’s or widower’s pension where a person remarries or cohabits with a new partner.

This is an outdated, unfair and unnecessary regulation which prevents those who cannot afford to lose their pension from enjoying companionship and support in later life.

**4. Will you commit to ensure that those in receipt of a UK state pension living in the EU will continue to receive uprating after Brexit?**

Currently, British Citizens who have retired to an EU country receive an annual increase to their state pension. The decision to leave the EU and consequential weaker pound has already eroded the value of these pensions. It is imperative that they do not become “frozen”.

I look forward to hearing from you with details of how your Party will address my concerns. Should you be elected, I hope that I can rely on you to ensure that current and future public service pensioners experience dignity and fairness in retirement.

Yours sincerely,