



## Council

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>3 December 2015</b>
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	<b>Report to Council - National Pensioners Convention</b>
<b>Presented by:</b>	<b>Trevor Peel, on behalf of Cate Woolley-Brown, Jackie Burns, Dr Joyce Forge, Kate Fitzsimmons,</b>
<b>Is a decision required? Yes x</b>	

### Introduction and NPC elections

1. This is the final report from the current elected representatives to the National Pensioners Convention.
2. Elections are currently being held for these roles and the results will be known on the 1 December 2015. There were seven candidates for four places.
3. Whilst voting has been taking place Trevor Peel has been elected to RCN Council and has, therefore, withdrawn from the NPC election.

### Update from the National Pensioners Convention Network representatives

4. The representatives have held two teleconferences since July 2015.
5. Preparations are being made for the induction of the new members following the election results and for the networks' fringe meeting at RCN Congress in 2016.

## Agenda Item 6.8

6. Good links have been made with the RCN Diversity Officer, Wendy Irwin, and several of the NPC representatives have taken on the role of RCN Diversity Champion.
7. Links have also been developed with RCN Professional Lead for the Elderly, Dawne Garrett and a future priority is working with RCN Care of the Elderly Forum Committee.
8. Work is also ongoing on to support activity to improve the RCN membership offer for retired members.
9. Kate Fitzsimmons attended a parliamentary event on women and pensions on September.

### Country and regional retired member networks

10. A summary of country and regional retired member networks is listed below:
  - Northern region – established network set up by Cate Woolley-Brown
  - North West region – Jackie Burns in discussion with the region about setting up a network
  - Yorkshire and the Humber – Gwen Vardigans has succeeded Graham Lake as chair of the network
  - Wales – Professor Dame June Clark FRCN is in discussion with the Welsh Board about setting up a network

### Finances

11. NPC is considering a proposed increase of 50% of its fees and we are proposing membership of and affiliation fees to the Public Services Pensioners Council (PSPC). ERD have been asked to budget for both.

### National Pensioners Convention (NPC)

12. The NPC Council met on 30 July and was attended by Trevor Peel and Kate Fitzsimmons. The next meeting is scheduled for 17 December.
13. Trevor Peel represented the RCN on the NPC Executive Committee at its meetings on 21 July, 15 September, 17 November. The next meeting is on the 17 December.
14. Key issues for the NPC currently are:
  - plans for a 50% increase in affiliation fees and NPC financial stability
  - Trade Union Bill and the Lobbying Act

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- Integration of health & social care
- Pensions – including benefits, the triple lock on pensions and changes in occupational pensions, Parliamentary Group on Woman’s Pensions, and the effect of changes in Indexation (RPI/CPI & other indices)
- Advisory Forum on Ageing
- TUC issues
- Parliamentary Support Group for NPC
- Issues related to BBC Charter Renewal
- Transport
- UN Older Peoples Day (1 October), Dignity Action Day (1 February), Lobby of Parliament (4 November)
- Global Age Watch 2015
- Plans for CSR on 25 November (and response)
- responding to policy developments
- IT issues

15. The RCN is also represented on a number of the NPC’s working parties which focus on the issues above in more depth. Representation is as follows:

- Trevor Peel - Trade Union Working Party and Health and Social Care Working Party
- Jackie Burns - Woman’s Working Party
- Dr Joyce Forge - Minority Elders Working Party

16. In addition, Dr Joyce Forge attended the NPC Transport Conference on 24 September.

17. Trevor Peel was a guest at the 147th TUC Annual Congress held in Brighton, in September, highlights included keynote speeches from Rt. Hon. John Bercow, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, Yanis Varoufakis (former Greek Finance Minister), Jeremy Corbyn MP, Labour Party Leader.

18. On the 9 October Dr Joyce Forge presented a paper on “The Role of the Nurse” at the Anglia Region Conference following the resolution at the NPC BDC.

19. Trevor Peel also serves on the NPC Northern Region Committee and attends the TUC Northern Region Pensions Advisory Group (PAG).

### Communications

20. To date the NPC Network has produced 181 Network Updates, 70 since our last Report to Council. A list of topics and copies of the updates are available on request via Gerry O'Dwyer in the Employment Relations.
21. Individual reports are also available on request on much of the activity in the report.

### Thanks

22. The current representatives would like to thank Gerry O'Dwyer, Senior Employment Relations Officer, and Jenny Lilywhite, Representative Support Officer, for their support during their terms of office.

### Recommendations

Council is asked to:

23. Ensure the newly elected NPC representatives are involved in further developing the network, the NPC affiliation and services for RCN retired members generally.