

PRESS RELEASE

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Number of £100k/year Public Sector Pensions Triples in 7 Years

The number of public sector retirees in the “Big Three” (NHS, civil service and teacher’s) pension schemes receiving pensions over £100,000 a year has increased by a staggering 320% in just seven years; up from 117 people in 2010/11 to 375 in 2017/18.

The number receiving annual pensions of more than £50,000 has more than doubled during the same period, according to latest Freedom of Information (FOI) requests by the Intergenerational Foundation (www.if.org.uk).

The number in receipt of pensions of more than the UK’s average annual salary (currently around £28,600 pa) has also increased by 46%; up from 78,000 people in 2010/11 to 115,000 people in 2017/18.

“This is an increasingly acute intergenerational fairness concern,” comments Angus Hanton, IF Co-founder. “These pensions are based on flawed assumptions made years ago about life expectancy, interest rates, contribution rates and levels of pay which successive governments have wilfully ignored. Younger workers will not receive such generous pensions, yet they are expected to keep paying for these pensions while also having to contribute far more for their own old age. If ever there was an example of passing the intergenerational buck, this is it.”

The Intergenerational Foundation looked at the big three public sector pension schemes and found that of those receiving over £100,000 a year pensions, 76% are members of the NHS pension scheme.

“We have to grasp the nettle of today’s over generous pensions,” adds Ashley Seager, IF Co-founder. “Those demanding no change to the current situation are putting the interests

of their cohort before the interests of their children and grandchildren.”

IF calls for intergenerational impact assessments to be undertaken in order to better protect younger and future generations from having to pay too high a share of these pension promises.

“The government should consider means-testing the state pension so that recipients on very large annual pensions of over £50,000 per annum are disqualified from receiving the State Pension,” continues Hanton.

According to the official Whole of Government accounts 2017, the current pension liability for the public sector is now £1.7 trillion, a 2.8% increase on the previous year.

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Note to Editors:

- This report updates Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to government departments in 2010/11.
- IF used Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to government departments to find the following figures:

No of public sector retirees collecting £50,000–£99,999 annual pension in 2010/11:	10,180
No of public sector retirees collecting over £100k annual pension in 2010/11:	117
No of public sector retirees collecting £28,600–£49,999 annual pension in 2010/11:	68,502
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	78,799
No of public sector retirees collecting £50,000–£99,999 annual pension in 2017/18:	24,349
No of public sector retirees collecting over £100k annual pension in 2017/18:	375
No of public sector retirees collecting £28,600–£49,999 annual pension in 2017/18:	90,292
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	115,016

- Of those collecting over £100k annual pensions, the NHS dominates at 76%.
- In spite of repeated requests, the NHS has not provided 2017/18 figures. NHS pension scheme figures are therefore based on data from 2016/17. The number of NHS retirees on very high pensions is likely to be higher than those given.

Angus Hanton and Ashley Seager, IF Co-founders, are available for interview.

Please contact Liz Emerson, liz@if.org.uk, Mob: 07971 228823, to arrange.