



NEGES Y DDRAIG DRAGONSPEECH

THE NEWSLETTER OF NPC WALES
Y CYLCHLYTHYR CPC CYMRU

Rhifyn 9 Hydref Issue 9 Autum 2023

Events



In November, the Chancellor will deliver the autumn statement.

NPC are campaigning that every year the state pension (basic and State Earnings Related Pension Scheme SERPS) rises in line with the best of earnings, the Consumer Price Index, the Retail Price Index or 2.5%.

The Prime Minister has committed to **keeping the triple lock for 2023-24** but it may be “tweaked” to reduce the earnings link.

Even with that link the UK has one of the lowest state pensions in Europe. If you have an additional pension, you pay income tax on it. Unless the personal allowance increases you will pay more tax. Older people are not the cause of the economic mess the country is in. **NPC Wales says keep the triple lock to protect the State Pension for future generations.**

Warm Homes Wales



National Pensioners Convention Wales and **UNITE**

Dywed Confensiwn Pensinwyr Cenedlaethol Cymru ac **UNITE**

Cold Homes Kill - Insulate our homes NOW!

Cartrefi Oer Lladd - Inswleiddio ein cartrefi NAWR!

End Winter Deaths

Diwedd Marwolaethau Gaeaf

NPC Wales is campaigning for the Welsh Government to increase funding and ensure the new **Warm Homes Programme** is introduced

As Soon As Possible. This is the best; most sustainable and lasting way of tackling fuel poverty and it will also help to cut housing carbon emissions.



NPC Wales Campaign for Better Buses

Good for people – Good for the Planet

- Services slashed - routes under threat with people left isolated, particularly in rural areas. Timetables - shredded!
- Buses unreliable – often cancelled or late.
- Cuts in UK Government funding to Wales has made the crisis even worse.
- We need the Welsh Government to introduce the **Bus Bill** as a step to get a proper public bus service in Wales.

The shift to providing more and more services digitally, such as online booking, telephone-based services and the move to a cashless society just keeps growing. It affects older people a lot!

STOP ONLINE ONLY!

Sign the petition:
Stop online being the only option 
Everyone should have fair and equal access to services. But older people are being overlooked. For those who aren't or choose not to be online it's becoming impossible to do basic things like booking a medical appointment or paying for parking. Join our call for all public services to always offer a post, phone or face to face option! #offlineandoverlooked

NPC Wales, supports Age UK's new Offline and Overlooked Petition.

Sign it by sending your Full Name and POSTCODE to: Freepost, Age UK Campaigns

Or online at:

<https://campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/page/135031/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=Website>

Like GP services!

To learn more about the kinds of issues and challenges facing older people when accessing GP services, the **Older People's Commissioner Wales (OPCW)** is inviting older people to share their experiences.

You can share your experiences online on the OPCW website or email ask@olderpeople.wales.

But you don't need to do it online! You can call the OPCW on 03442 640 670, or write to: FREEPOST RTHR-HYZC-RRAX Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Cambrian Buildings Mount Stuart Square Cardiff, CF10 5FL



By the end of 2025, every customer who rents a telephone line in the UK will have their line transferred over to become a digital line.

It doesn't matter whether your provider is BT, TalkTalk, Virgin, or any other provider.

The NPC is a member of the Digital Voice Advisory Group (DVAG) which includes BT, but it doesn't include other communications providers.

One issue of concern raised with that group, by NPC, has been the inability to use our phones during a power cut.

Once lines are converted to digital, we, the customer, will be responsible for powering our own telephone line. In that situation Ofcom requires that customers must still be able to contact the emergency services. Customers could use their mobile phones. **BUT a lot of older people do not own or rent a mobile phone.**

Now Ofcom have made it clear that if you don't have a mobile phone or don't have mobile signal – **your provider must offer you a solution to make sure you can contact the emergency services when a power cut occurs.**



Your Shout:
If you have a story you would like to share or have any comments on our newsletter, please contact us:

E mail info@npcwales.org

By Post: NPC Wales
c/o Age Cymru
Ground Floor, Mariners House
Trident Court
East Moors Road
Cardiff, CF24 STD

Why not Join National Pensioners Convention Wales/ Confensiwn Pensiynwyr Cenedlaethol Cymru known as NPC Wales?

We are a voluntary organisation. We are a non-party political campaigning organisation that seeks to improve the living standards and welfare of all pensioners and future pensioners in Wales.

Our Full Council meets, normally, 4 times a year.

Our elected volunteer Officers and Committee Members meet regularly with the Welsh Government and the Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

Our current key campaigns are for:

- **The recovery of the NHS in Wales**
and the development of a fully integrated Social Care service, free at the point of need, as its first priority.
- **The Cost-of-Living Crisis.**
- **Energy For All - Say NO to Heat or Eat**
- **Cold Homes Kill - Insulate our homes NOW!**
- **Digital Connections for All**

We also believe that traditional forms of communication and services such as face to face, over the telephone, via post and using cash must remain in place.

- **Public Transport**
Buses and the Welsh Bus Bill ? Bus services are in deep crisis. Routes are at-risk all over Wales.
- **Housing Care and Repair** There are 13 Care & Repair Agencies in Wales, each covering a different region. We want far more adaptations to be carried out.



**If you are a member of an organisation
your organisation can affiliate to NPC
Wales please contact:**

E-Mail affiliation@npcwales.org

Or by post to:
NPC Wales
c/o Age Cymru
Mariners House
Trident Court
East Moors Road
Cardiff
CF24 STD

You can join NPC Wales as an individual member.

If you do you can attend our meetings, vote and receive our newsletters.

I wish to join NPC Wales as an individual member

E-Mail affiliation@npcwales.org or send by post to the address below.

Your Full Name

Address

Post Code

Home Telephone

Mobile Number

E mail address

Payment of affiliation fees: £10:00 per year

To Pay by BACS : Please pay to:

Lloyds Bank, NPC Wales No.2 Account

Sort Code 309995 Account Number 01236708

If paying via BACS please ensure that you include a reference identifying your name.

Or pay by cheque payable to NPC Wales and return to:

NPC Wales, c/o Age Cymru, Mariners House, Trident Court, East Moors Road,
Cardiff CF24 STD

Supported by



Ariennir gan
Llywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



Promoted and Published by NPC Wales,
printed by Age Cymru, all c/o Ground
Floor Mariners House, Trident Court,
East Moors Road, Cardiff, CF24 STD