

PE1480/T

Petitioner Email of 23 June 2016

I particularly feel that these two petitions remain relevant to enable the people of Scotland to live with the dignity and respect that every human being deserves, regardless of their age.

I received an email from a 78 year lady last week to tell me to carry on with the campaign, not because it would be fit her as she was over 65 but because she wanted to have peace of mind, knowing that her younger family members, should they ever be assessed as needing help with personal care, they would not be treated unjustly and unfairly by being discriminated against because of their age.

Along with the above, I would like the committee to know that I agree with the points which Mr Adamson has forwarded to Ms Lamont today, in particular the following statement in the email and also what follows this statement:-

It's discriminatory on the grounds of age – The Equality Act 2010 made discrimination on the grounds of age discriminatory unless it can be objectively justified. COLSA in its guidance on care charges warns councils that their current policies of having separate charges may be open to legal challenge. The different trigger ages throughout Scotland show that there is a scrabbling around by councils to deal with this. But these fail as there is no objective justification that can be used to show why a 64 year old with dementia has to pay for personal care when a 65 year old with dementia doesn't.

I also realise that the benefits and pension system can be difficult for people to understand at times.

However, what I do not understand, and have yet to receive a reply to my question to a Government Minister is, (certainly in my late husband's case,) when it became apparent that he had a disease, which there is no known cure, or treatment for, and therefore would require help with his personal care at a certain point, could the relevant departments not been able to release some of the funds which he had paid into his state pension over his 47 years working life and which would have paid for his personal care, which would have been a minimal amount for the time he required it?

Yes I realise there will be people who have never paid into a state pension and others who have, but he paid in legitimately to a government scheme, which possibly needs to be addressed, and changes made so that everyone is treated fairly, equally and justly.

If my late husband had never been diagnosed with Dementia, which was caused by CTE, and which robbed him of his life at age 65' he may well have lived for another 20 odd years and collected that state pension which he had contributed to.

Kindest Regards

Amanda Kopel