

The BBC Pensions Robbery

Vote NO



Photo: Guy Smallman

We are a cross-section of union reps at the BBC and we think you should vote “No” in the consultative ballot on the BBC’s CAB 2011 pension plans.

Mark Thompson’s campaign to destroy the final Salary Pension Scheme is based on a sham.

A new estimate suggests that the deficit on the scheme is not £2 Billion. It is not £1.5 Billion. It has now been estimated at £1 Billion – that’s the level at which the Director General promised to reconsider the BBC’s options on the future of the pension scheme.

So, all bets are off. We call on the BBC to re-start negotiations from scratch.

The reps’ decision to call this consultative ballot has given staff a chance to see even more of the flaws in the BBC’s plans.

We all have the right to demand that Mark Thompson offers us a pension which will allow us a decent, secure standard of living in retirement.

That’s what we were promised. So far, none of his alternatives to scrapping the Final Salary Pension Scheme gives us that.

“Was it part of the natural order that final-salary schemes would wither and die? Were they killed by incompetence and neglect? Or were they murdered?”

From “Who Runs Britain” by Robert Peston,
BBC Business Editor

Vote NO because:

- CAB 2011 means staff will be expected to pay more, to work longer and get less back for their retirement.

- The BBC has refused to consider the unions’ calls to protect our pensions against rising costs of living in the future. You risk losing more than 20% of your pension to inflation under the current plan.

- The BBC’s “final” offer was no such thing. Negotiations are still going on and management have continued to amend key elements of their proposals.

- The new estimate of the pension deficit shows that senior management have used the deficit in a politically-driven attack to close down the Final Salary Scheme.

- BBC staff are not demanding “feather-bedding” or “gold-plated” pensions. The current average pension for BBC staff is £12,500. That’s somewhere between the pension of a fire-fighter and a police officer.



BBC workers leafleting outside Bush House on the first day of the Pensions strike ballot.
Photo: Guy Smallman

The BBC can't justify the Pensions Robbery

Vote No

We no longer trust the BBC senior Executives who have told each other they think staff “will fall for it” when they tell us they have made their final offer.

If you vote “yes” in the consultative ballot, you are saying the BBC plans are acceptable. A strong “No” vote puts BBC staff back in the driving seat. We are telling Mark Thompson that CAB 2011 is not fair, it is not acceptable and we will go on strike if the BBC does not give us what we were promised – a pension that is secure into the future and is valuable for younger people with a life of work ahead of them.

Vote NO

Join Your Union

If you are not already a member of one of the BBC unions we urge you to join now. You should either contact your local rep or visit the unions' websites for more information.

www.nuj.org.uk

www.bectu.org.uk

www.unitetheunion.org

Peter Murray, Glasgow Chapel, NUJ President; Tory Blair, BBC London Branch, NUJ Secondee; Ian Pollock, BBC London Branch, former Pensions Trustee; Brid Fitzpatrick, Newcastle; Celia Hutchison, BECTU Manchester; Paul Mason, Newsnight; Zarghuna Kargar, Afghan Service, Paula Dear, News Interactive, Simon Vaughan, Westminster; Phil Hendry, TV News; Tony Kavanagh/Paul Seacroft, Information and Archives, BECTU; Michael Workman, World Service News; Julie Clayton, Cumbria; Jared Thomas, Vice-Chair, BBC R&M Broadcast & Production, BECTU; Jeremy Aspinall, BBC Worldwide; David Eyre, Glasgow/Edinburgh; Becky Branford, News Interactive; Jonathan Brunert, Panorama/White City; Andy Comfort, Hull; David Campanale, World TV; Dimitry Linnik, Russian service; Jane Anderson, Worldwide; Lesley Taylor, Radio Newsroom; Ben Toone, A&M Production, BECTU; Jon Kelly, News Interactive; Ali Raiss-Tousi, Persian Service; Olexander Hryb, Ukrainian Service; Tim Clarke/David Gallagher Radio and Music, BECTU