For IMMEDIATE USE Thursday 3 November

Pensions: Not just a women's question

The key paragraph of the report (paragraph 25 on page 73) states that in 20 years time men and women will be retiring with similar levels of entitlement to the basic state pension. The question therefore is not about scrapping the contributory basic pension and replacing it with a Citizenship Pension – based on the something for nothing principle – but of how best to fill the gap in entitlement for women between now and 2050.

The big question on pensions remains how can we guarantee everybody an adequate pension to take them free of means-testing. Men and women have a similar interest in this question being addressed by the new Secretary of State.

The success of the Pensions Credit in giving more help to the poorest pensioners than any other initiative by any previous government allows the government to direct the whole of its attention to long-term reform. The need for that long-term reform is highlighted again in **Women and Pensions**.

The Pensions Reform Group advocates building up a funded provision to run alongside the basic state pension so that in future everyone will be drawing a minimum pension of between 25 – 30 per cent of average earnings.

Further Information Oliver Blaiklock 020 7219 6636
07714 088630

or visit: www.pensionsreformgroup.co.uk