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The Leading Public Service Union

Brian Campfield General Secretary

Branch Secretary Circular GC 48/10

To: NIPSA Branch Secretaries (3MM +6FF)
General Council (1AA)
CS and PO Group Executive Committees (1DD, 1EE)
Seconded Officers (3KL) HQ Officials (Int 1)

3 August 2010

UK JUNE BUDGET – IMPACT ON WOMEN

Dear Colleague

The Women's Budget Group, an independent voluntary organisation which brings together individuals from the academic world, non governmental organisations and trade unions has produced a gender impact assessment of the Coalition Government budget which was announced in June 2010. The conclusion of this assessment is that the budget fails the gender equality test. Details of this assessment is attached for your information.

As a consequence the Fawcett Society, an organisation which campaigns for equality between men and women in the UK on pay, pensions, poverty, justice and politics has launched a legal challenge to the Coalition Government. It has filed papers with the High Court in London, seeking a judicial review of the budget contesting that the government failed, as it is required to do under law, to assess whether its budget proposals would increase or reduce equality between women and men. Further information about this challenge can be found at www.fawcettsociety.org.uk.

The Northern Ireland Executive is currently embarking on a range of consultative meetings as part of its Northern Ireland pre budget consultation process. NIPSA will be meeting with the Department of Finance and Personnel as part of this process and in addition to expressing our firm opposition to the UK budget measures which have a detrimental impact on the vast majority of citizens, we will be highlighting the report from the UK Women's Budget Group and enquiring what if any steps the NI Executive is taking to ensure that its comprehensive spending plans for the next 3 years does not increase gender inequality in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely



BRIAN CAMPFIELD
General Secretary

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