



## Talk to your local TDs!

Older & Bolder invite YOU to join our campaign to Defend the State Pension.  
Take action together - Talk to your local TDs on **November 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**.

### Why lobby?

Lobbying politicians – letting them know your views and concerns - is an important part of the working of any democracy. As public representatives, most politicians expect, and welcome, contact from concerned citizens in their area. Right now, important decisions are being made about pensions and politicians *from all parties* need to be hearing your views.

### Where do I start?

**Write or Call** During October - write to or call your TDs at their constituency or Dáil office. Let them know your concerns about direct or indirect cuts to the State Pension. Contact details for TDs are listed at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie) or ask Older & Bolder for a list of local representatives.

**Visit your TD** On the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of November, join others across the country and deliver your message in person - either alone or as part of a group. Most TDs hold regular clinics in their constituencies, often at the weekends, which are open to everyone. Alternatively you may be able to arrange a meeting through their office.

**Send an Invitation!** Another option might be to organise a local meeting on a suitable day and invite politicians from all parties to attend.

### 6 Simple Steps for Successful Lobbying!

**Prepare** Before visiting or writing to your local TDs it can sometimes help to do a little research. For example, what position do they hold within their party or within Government or have they previously taken any action or made public statements about this issue?

**Plan** When meeting a TD, write a short list of two or three main points you want to get across. If you are visiting as part of a group, decide in advance who will lead on each point.

**Make it relevant** Your message will have a stronger impact if you link it to the lives of you or others in your local area. While facts and figures are useful, they are far more powerful when placed alongside personal experience and real examples.

**Know what you want** When speaking to your TDs, try to be very clear and practical about what exactly you would like them to do; Contact a Minister? Influence a party policy on pensions? Make a statement? Ask a parliamentary question?

**Follow up** When writing to a TD, be sure to ask for and acknowledge a response. If you meet in person, follow up in writing to re-state any next steps. Lobbying can be a long-term project so it is important to build a respectful relationship, even when you disagree! After a couple of weeks, ask for updates on action taken. Lastly, a thank you card is always appreciated!

**We are always interested in your feedback so do let us know how you get on!**

Contact **Older & Bolder** at [www.olderandbolder.ie](http://www.olderandbolder.ie) or call **01-8783623**