

Dear colleague

Commission's response to the government announcement that the default retirement age will be abolished

Baroness Margaret Prosser, Deputy Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, said:

"We believe today's announcement abolishing the default retirement age will make it easier for businesses planning their workforce.

"It will simplify retirement planning from what is, at the moment, quite a bureaucratic process. Employers will now only need to assess the fitness and capability of their workforce, something responsible businesses will already be doing, giving everyone a level playing field.

"We have been working for some time to open up more employment opportunities for older Britons and to ensure that they can continue working while they are willing and able.

"At a time when Britain faces its toughest economic climate for decades it makes good business sense to keep people in the workforce for longer; decreasing welfare costs and increasing spending power.

"Older workers have been telling us for some time now that radical change is what is needed to keep them in the workforce. At the same time, employers have been telling us that it makes good business sense for them to be able to recruit and retain older workers.

"We are glad that the Government has listened and acknowledged what we have long known; that keeping older Britains in the workforce has benefits all round."

Kind Regards

Jackie Beer

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