



For immediate release

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## **TISA comments on the Backto60 campaign group's appeal of women's state pension age**

**Renny Biggins, Head of Retirement at TISA, comments on today's state pension age increase appeal:** "Today the Backto60 campaign group is appealing against raising women's state pension age after its defeat in October 2019. In the past decade, changes have also been made to private pension schemes to make them more accessible for all, but the story is similarly disappointing for women. It is undeniable that women are more likely to struggle when it comes to retirement income because of a number of factors which disproportionately impact their saving ability throughout life, such as taking breaks from work to care for children and elderly family members. This must change if we are to have financially secure and independent women in retirement.

"Auto-Enrolment was introduced in 2012 to help make saving for the future easier and fairer, and to boost the state pension provision, however, the criteria for AE means that many women are 'locked out' of the scheme. For example, those earning under £10,000 are not automatically enrolled. This disproportionately hits women as currently a third work part-time, meaning many won't reach the earnings trigger for AE.

"Sadly, COVID-19 is only worsening the situation. Women are taking on additional childcare and housework duties coupled with a higher possibility they may lose their jobs because of the sectors women are more likely to work in – hospitality and retail. Those who manage to stay in employment may see their hours reduced, leading to more women falling below the AE trigger or deciding to opt out until they have more disposable income.

"Effective planning for the future is absolutely crucial and everyone should start saving as much as they can from as early on in their career as possible, to ensure that any further changes to the state pension or wider economy are mitigated to a certain extent by private pension wealth and other savings. The government now must consider changing the AE criteria to expand coverage, so that more women have the opportunity to save throughout their lives."

**Ends**

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**Notes for Editors**



***TISA's ambition is to improve the financial wellbeing of UK consumers by bringing the financial services savings industry together to promote collective engagement, to deliver solutions and to champion innovation for the benefit of people, our industry and the nation.***

We do this by focusing on good consumer outcomes and harnessing the power of our broad industry membership base to deliver practical solutions, new digital infrastructure and by devising innovative, evidence-based strategic proposals for government, policy makers and regulators. This holistic approach to address the major consumer issues uniquely positions TISA to deliver independent insight, promote innovation and facilitate good practice.

TISA's rapidly growing membership is representative of all sectors of the financial services industry. We have over 200-member firms involved in the supply and distribution of savings, investment products and associated services, including the UK's major investment managers, retail banks, online platforms, insurance companies, pension providers, distributors, building societies, wealth managers, third party administrators, Fintech businesses, financial consultants, financial advisers, industry infrastructure providers and stockbrokers.

Our current strategic policy focus includes making financial guidance more widely available; financial education for young people; retirement savings and addressing consumer engagement, particularly for the vulnerable. These will form essential elements of - *Vision 2025* - TISA's strategic policy roadmap towards delivering a material impact in enhancing consumers' financial wellbeing.

Complementing our development of consumer policy and thought leadership, TISA has become a major industry delivery organisation for consumer focused, digital industry infrastructure initiatives (TeX/STAR, Digital ID, MiFID II and Open Savings & Investment). This reflects TISA's commitment to open standards and independent governance.

TISA is also recognised for the support it provides to members on a range of operational and technical issues targeted at improving infrastructure and processes, establishing standards of good practice and the interpretation and implementation of new rules and regulations. This work currently includes MiFID II, CASS, SM&CR and addressing cybercrime.

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