



## **Damning Verdict for Government Over Pension Victims.**

Three Court of Appeal judges have delivered a crushing verdict against the government, finding them guilty of misleading 125,000 people about the safety of their pensions.

The appeal is on behalf of the 125,000 people who lost their occupational pensions when their company schemes wound up. The judges found that the secretary of state's rejection of the ombudsman's findings last year was irrational and unlawful and also ruled that he must accept his department caused injustices which go beyond financial losses.

The Department for Work and Pensions is set to appeal to the House of Lords, which is astonishing. The government's request for leave to appeal to the House of Lords is a waste of taxpayers money and will just further prolong the suffering caused to these pensioners.

This is a further slap in the face for the pension victims who have still not received the increase in Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) payments as announced by Peter Hain before Christmas.

There is much work to be done in ensuring that all those who should be paid will actually start receiving their money and the government should be urged to work as quickly as possible to get the money to people. Instead of spending time mounting a challenge against these legal verdicts and denying any wrongdoing, they should be working on speeding up the resolution of the problems that they caused. The current Pensions Minister is our very own James Purnell MP.

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