



# Northern Pensioners Association Crewe & District

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## Press Release –Dilnot Commission

Crewe Pensioners have dismissed the Dilnot Report as a complete failure to seriously address the crisis-ridden social care system

The NPA claims that raising the threshold on exempted assets to £100,000 will not prevent older people from having to sell their homes to fund their care as the majority of houses are worth more than that.

The proposed cap of £35000 is a regressive charge which will favour the better off. The losers will yet again be those who have lived prudently, bought their own house and saved a little.

Secretary Hugh Emerson was scathing in his attack on the proposal that only older people should pay 10% more tax to pay the care costs of other older people. “ This is the first time ever that a tax has been targeted at one particular generation in this way” he said. “ It is disgraceful and it show that Dilnot’s prime motivation was a direct onslaught on the well being of older people. This cost could be met by a mere 0.5% increase in general taxation. Are we not prepared to pay that to help our older people live with dignity in their retirement? “

Derek Barton, secretary of the North West Regional Pensioners Association has also condemned the report. “ Nothing in this report will end means testing, improve standards or prevent people from still having to sell their homes if they need social care. “

The report also suggests raising the threshold of care to “substantial” reducing the numbers of people who would receive funded care and leaving hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people without any support in the community.

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Dot Gibson, general secretary of the national Pensioners Convention also criticised the report saying “The Dilnot Report has really created more heat than light when it comes to the social care debate. The current care system is in crisis yet this won’t go anywhere near putting that right.”

The NPC has requested an urgent meeting with the care minister Paul Bercow.

End