

Press Release

Ex Ford Workers expect UNITE union to start legal action after Pension Scheme Collapse

Members of the collapsed Visteon UK Pension are expecting UNITE Union to bring legal action against Ford, to enforce commitments and guarantees made to Ford employees before they were transferred to Visteon in 2000. Pensioners will take their protest to London and the Houses of Parliament on the 31st March.

In active pursuit of a legal and moral claim against Ford, Visteon Pension Fund members from Northern Ireland, South Wales, Enfield and Basildon will demonstrate outside Parliament on the 31st of March – exactly 12 months after Visteon UK went into administration forcing the pension fund into assessment by the Pension Protection Fund. Some pensioners are seeing massive reductions of over 40% in their pensions under the PPF, with minimal increases in the future. The demonstration will start at 10.00am outside the UNITE office in Holborn, marching to the Houses of Parliament for 2pm.

The demonstration is a result of Ford's denial of any responsibility to support Visteon workers at a recent meeting in New York between senior executives and UNITE. The union has now committed to persue a legal challenge against Ford based on promised "mirrored terms and conditions" and "pension safeguards" given at the time of spin off. By the 31st of March, members expect UNITE to have declared their next steps in the legal battle.

Many pensioners, some with nearly 40 years service, feel badly let down by a company who prides itself on the "family of Ford" and maintains commitment to its employees.

Earlier **Tony Woodley** , the joint General Secretary of Unite, had declared:

"UNITE stood by Visteon workers in the fight for fair redundancy payments when the company went into administration and the union will not abandon Visteon workers fighting for pensions justice

Ford made copper-bottomed promises to the workers before they were transferred to Visteon and we intend to hold them to those promises."

The Visteon Pension Action Group has raised issues regarding the failures of both Ford and Visteon trustees to act correctly and provide a Duty of Care. The UK Pensions Regulator is now actively engaged with the case and in the process of building evidence through interviews with key individuals. As a result, the Visteon case will be highlighted in a BBC 'File on Four' program due to air on March the 9th . In addition, a petition of around 2000 signatures will be delivered to Gordon Brown on March 1st.

BACKGROUND

Visteon is a US based company with some 30,000 employees in 26 countries around the world, which Ford spun off in 2000 retaining a majority shareholding. On March 31st 2009 Visteon placed its UK arm into administration, having spent many months secretly transferring products to both other Visteon European factories and alternative suppliers to Ford. However, despite the collapse of Visteon UK, Visteon Corporation continues to operate in the UK, and prior to the collapse Visteon Engineering Systems had been created, with key management and staff moved into the new company -- all with the knowledge and support of Ford. Ford has declared strongly improved profits boosted by strong UK sales success and even Visteon Corporation has declared a profit for Q4 2009.

Ends.

Paul Bailey, (pbailey4@lineone.net)
Visteon Pension Action Group
Visteon Pension Action Group
Phone 07866 636984
www.visteonpensionactiongroup.co.uk

**Visteon Pension Action
Group (VPAG)**



VPAG