To: Editors: Irish Times; Irish Independent; Irish Examiner; RTE Newsdesk & TV3 Newsdesk

Dear sir,

The ESB Retired Staff Association (ESBRSA) held a protest at ESB Head Office Fitzwilliam Street and Government Buildings, Merrion Street on 3rd March 2015 to highlight their grievances at the lack of recognition and rights of representation for pensioners.

The attached Media Release was emailed to your news desk on 23rd February 2015, with advance notice of the protest and again on 3rd March 2015 following the protest. The question I would ask is why a protest with almost 1000 pensioners in their 60s, 70s and 80s who travelled from all over the country on a bitterly cold day was judged to be unworthy of considerable space in your newspaper.

I would suggest sir, that your decision not to cover such a significant event was politically motivated, or perhaps not newsworthy because the protest was conducted in a dignified and orderly manner, caused minimum public disruption, and was ably assisted by an Garda Siochana

There are growing concerns about pension issues by both pensioners and workers and indeed by the wider public. These include the viability of current pension plans, the imposition of pension levies and the protection of pension rights.

Your failure to cover the protest by ESBRSA on 3rd March has deprived your readers of information on a subject about which they have genuine concerns. The absence of media coverage has not been in the public interest.

I look forward to a response and would be grateful if you would publish this letter.

Regards

Michael MacNamara

Ho Secretary National Executive,

ESB Retired Staff Association