**Website News**

**Government Pension Levy**

RSA lodged a complaint with the Equality Tribunal against both ESB and the Trustees of the Pensions Scheme in December 2012 that ESB refused to pay the Levy and the Trustees discriminated against pensioners in their decision to recover the Levy exclusively from pensioners. After a hearing, based on legal issues, in May 2014 the Equality Officer’s decision found against RSA on the basis that it was time-barred under Pensions legislation. Under Tribunal rules RSA appealed that decision to the Labour Court. A hearing took place at the Labour Court on 15 January 2015 at which RSA sought an adjournment to make a further submission in support of their complaint. Deliberations are ongoing and we will keep you informed of any progress.

**Meeting with Dept. of Social Protection**

Officers of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the RSA met officials from the Dept. of Social Protection on 14th January 2015. We asked to meet Minister Burton, but she was unavailable to meet us. Our discussions covered a number of important issue, including rights of representation for pensioner associations, arbitration procedures for disputes and pension protection legislation to ensure employer responsibility for their employee’s pension schemes. We are still actively seeking a meeting with Minister Burton and will keep you advised of any developments.

**Dept. of Jobs Enterprise & Innovation**

Officers of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the RSA met officials from the Dept. of Jobs Enterprise & Innovation during 2014 and engaged in correspondence with them also on rights of representation for pensioner associations and changes in legislation to give pensioners equality of esteem under law with employees. RSA are also actively seeking a meeting with Minister Bruton and will keep you advised of any developments.

**Dept. of Public Expenditure & Reform**

Officers of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the RSA have written to and are seeking a meeting with Minister Howlin regarding ongoing problems with ESOT Internal Markets. 85% of ESB Capital Stock is vested in the office of the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform and we believe that such a meeting may assist in solving ESOT issues.