



Phil James's story

By [Jeff Prestridge](#)

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PHIL James started work as a machine operator at Triplex Machining's factory when he was 18. That was 33 years ago. The plant, which employs 150 making flywheels and disc brakes for the car industry, is the only place he has ever worked.

A series of employers came and went over the 33 years - RTZ, Caradon, Vector and Triplex to name a few - but two things were constant: Phil's job was secure and his works pension was intact.

But all that changed in August when the Hereford plant, along with other Triplex businesses in Peterborough and Stratford-upon-Avon, was sold to Barr Brothers. The outcome was the winding-up of the Triplex Components Group Pension Scheme.

Now, Phil and his workmates expect a pittance when they retire. They are all bitter beyond words.

Phil will be joined at the November 4 pensions summit in London by his wife Julie, 44, who works in a doctor's surgery. She is appalled by what has happened to her husband's pension. 'His good pension was going to be his reward for 33 years of loyal service in a very heavy industry,' she says.




'I am distraught, but we are determined to be heard. The nation needs to be warned that company pensions are not guaranteed.

'The Prime Minister might find that this turns out to be his Poll Tax if he doesn't act soon to provide some form of compensation for the likes of Phil and other victims.'

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