Template Letter to your MP

If you don’t know who your MP is you can find out here [https://www.theyworkforyou.com](https://www.theyworkforyou.com/). You can send a letter or an e mail.

Below is a template letter to send to your MP. Remove the wording in red and replace with the relevant information. **Please personalise the letter with your own information as we know MPs are most affected by personal stories.**

Dear (Mr/Mrs/Ms xxxxx)

I am writing to complain/raise further issues [amend as appropriate] with you about the amount of notice I was given in relation to the increase in State Pension age.

I believe that the DWP is guilty of maladministration in the way the changes have been introduced.  My complaint centres on the fact that I did not receive clear, complete, consistent and accurate information relating to my State Pension.  Clear evidence of the maladministration and inaccurate communication was publicly exposed on the government website itself, which still had 60 as the retirement age for women as recently as February 2016. I understand the DWP did take steps to notify some women and their attempts to do so fell short of good practice. Furthermore, when the Government became aware of the general lack of public knowledge through their own surveys, no effective review leading to remedial action was taken. This then led to a catastrophic situation where women were unaware of the change in date of their State Pension, leading to real harm being suffered.

In my own case I received a letter in [*insert date*] when I was [*insert number of years*] years away from my anticipated receipt of my State Pension at 60 years.  [If you didn’t get a letter then say that and say how you eventually found out.] Further, I did not receive adequate notice of the changes.  I do not believe that the DWP followed its own good practices in this instance i.e. to give 10 years or more notice of changes in relation to pension changes.  As a consequence, I have been affected in the following ways: [Here clearly set out how the impact has affected you financially. Include the loss of State Pension, the savings you have had to use in the meantime, if you have had to downsize your home, rely on your husband or partner, or other family members.]

I have suffered a loss of approximately [insert number of years] years of my State Pension. It is far too late for me to take action that can restore me to the position I understood I would be in financially.

I have suffered an injustice through an inability to make informed choices or to take remedial action, for example, [*give own action you could have taken*] had I been made aware of these I could have tried to [*obtain employment in a less physically exhausting role* ]/[*not accepted redundancy* ]/ [ *early retirement* changes.[ I was passed over for promotion as it was assumed I would retire at 60.]

Please understand that I’m not complaining about the change of the State Pension age, rather the lack of notice of the change, which left little or no time to make alternative arrangements.

I’m also concerned that when questions are asked in Parliament about this issue the answer always refers to a small adjustment made in the time scale for raising the State Pension Age for both men and women in 2011, while ignoring the fact that the 1995 Act combined with the 2011 Act has meant that many women born in the 1950s are waiting up to an extra six years for their State Pension, with little or no notice.

I would like to hear from you how you will take action to right this injustice for 1950s women.  There is an APPG with Carolyn Harris MP and Tim Loughton MP as co-Chairs and I would like you to contribute to their efforts.  I would appreciate it if you would take up this matter with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and ensure that she understands that the wait has been much longer than 18 months for many women born in the 1950s.

I can confirm I am a constituent of [insert name of constituency] and set out my address below.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Address