

Dear Councillor xxxxxx

Proposed Motion to Support Fair Transitional State Pension arrangements for 1950's women

I live in the xxxxxx which is in the area you represent at xxxxxx Council. I was born in the 1950s and have been quite severely affected by the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) for women as a result of both the 1995 and 2011 Pensions Acts. The total loss of pension income for me is approx. £xxxx at today's prices and my SPA has been increased by x yrs and x months.

The Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed that it did not write to women affected by the 1995 Act until 14 years later, in 2009. However, these letters were halted in 2011 because the Government was planning to make further increases. So only women born up to 5 April 1953 were written to in that round of letters. DWP started writing to women born after 6.4.53 in 2012 and I received my letter in XXXXX, aged XXXXX that my SPA would be xxxxx at age xx years and xx months. There are approximately 3.8million women in the country affected by these reforms and many are suffering severe financial hardship.

WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality Ltd.) have been campaigning for the government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for women born in the 1950s and their e-petition gathered over 193,000 signatures in support. There is cross party support for the call for transitional arrangements and an All Party Parliamentary Group has been established to consider options.

I believe that the significant loss of income to women who were expecting their pensions at 60 will have an adverse effect on our local area. There will be less disposable income and there are many women having to sell their homes, claiming housing support and/or finding they need to claim ESA or JSA in their 60s to survive. Not all women are able to continue working due to ill health, caring responsibilities for parents and/or grandchildren, redundancy, etc.

Several Councils across the country have recently passed the following motion to support the call for transitional arrangements and I would respectfully ask if you would be willing to request xxxxxx Council to do the same.

The Motion:

"The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional State Pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification. 3.8million women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. Many had no notification at all.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, and/or providing childcare for

grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace and struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.

It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving them with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls upon the Government "To provide fair transitional State Pension arrangements for all women affected by the changes. This translates into a 'bridging' pension to provide an income from age 60 until State Pension Age. An income that is not means-tested, and also includes recompense for losses incurred, for those women who have already reached their SPA, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements."

We do not ask for a reversal of any Pension Act to age 60.

Further information can be found on the WASPI website:

www.waspi.co.uk

<http://data.parliament.uk/.../understandin.../written/25211.html>

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you and as to whether you are willing to put forward this motion to xxxxx Council. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely