

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CG/00209/20

Guy Opperman MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion
minister.pensions@dw.gov.uk

23 November 2020

Dear Guy,

The Welsh Government has on numerous occasions written to the UK Government to express concerns over the impacts of the increase in the State Pension Age (SPA). We remain deeply concerned that the impact the Pension Acts of 1995 and 2011 is disproportionately affecting a number of women who have had their SPA raised significantly without effective or sufficient notification. These impacts have resulted in many women enduring hardship and poverty here in Wales.

The untimely communication to those women disproportionately impacted by the changes has meant no time to reshape their lives, their plans, and most importantly of all their finances, as they now wait a number of additional years to become eligible for their State Pension. The Welsh Government is not only worried over the negative financial implications for these women but also how these changes have impacted on their physical and mental health, all as a result of changes which they knew nothing about.

I fully recognise that communicating the changes to the State Pension Age was not the responsibility of your government. However, it is the current UK Government which has a responsibility towards these women, to put right a wrong and to ensure gender inequality is not compounded.

We must recognise that these women have endured gender inequality throughout their lives. Women born in the 1950s had very different life and employment opportunities to those we take for granted today. Many women in this age group will have worked in part-time and low paid roles taking time off work to care for their children or elderly relatives. They have worked,

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

paid their National Insurance contributions, raised children and contributed fully to society, but now find themselves, once again, being disadvantaged by their gender.

I urge the UK Government to work with those women most disproportionately affected, and the groups which represent them, to find a just solution. The system must be fair to all, and not exacerbate gender inequality for a minority.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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