



Ein cyf/Our ref: JH/PO/367/2024

Emma Reynolds MP
Minister for Pensions
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2 December 2024

Dear Emma Reynolds MP,

I congratulate you on your appointment as Pensions Minister and look forward to working with you.

I very much welcomed your meeting with representatives from the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign group in September. This was a very significant and positive step forward for those women born in the 1950s who had their state pension age raised without effective or sufficient notification.

Your willingness to meet with WASPI was received very favourably and clearly demonstrates a more positive and constructive approach to resolving this issue. However, there is no single group which represents the millions of women affected by this issue. I urge you to look at ways of engaging with other campaign groups, beyond WASPI. I am sure that such engagement would be welcomed and assist you in your work towards bringing this longstanding issue to a just, fair and satisfactory resolution at the earliest opportunity.

I have heard first-hand the negative impacts suffered by this cohort of women, not only financially but how it has impacted their physical and mental health. These effects will have been exacerbated by both the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis and it is, therefore, even more important that any wrongs are put right as soon as possible.

This is a complex issue and I appreciate that not all women were impacted equally. However, this is no longer an issue of whether this cohort of women experienced unfair treatment. The conclusions of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's (PHSO) investigation were clear and unequivocal in this respect - maladministration by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) caused injustice.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynir 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 responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The challenge is now about finding a remedy. Justice must be done and seen to be done. I know you are currently giving the PHSO's report careful consideration. The Prime Minister recently indicated that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions will soon be making a statement on this issue. This is very welcome news. I trust the statement will set out the process and timeline for implementing the PHSOs recommendations. Addressing this issue is not only a matter of financial justice but also a moral responsibility.

I am sure you will continue to give this matter the attention it deserves in order to find a way forward, not only for the women directly affected but also for the wider trust in our public institutions and to demonstrate the accountability of Government.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Hutt".

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip