



State Pension Inequality for Women

Debbie Abrahams MP
Chair of the Select Committee on Work and Pensions
BY EMAIL

14 October 2024

Dear Debbie,

Re: Report by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman ("the Ombudsman") on injustice and associated issues regarding changes to women's state pension age

We are writing as the Co-Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women, regarding the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's findings on "injustice and associated issues regarding changes to women's state pension age", laid before Parliament on 21st March 2024.

Firstly, may we congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Select Committee on Work and Pensions. We know you are a long-time champion for challenging the detrimental impacts of the State Pension Age rollout on 1950s born women, and you have been involved in the APPG yourself, so we are very happy to see you take on this role.

We recently held the inaugural meeting to reconstitute the APPG on State Pension Inequality for Women which has long been an active cross-party forum with a stated purpose to hold the government to account on the issue of transitional arrangements to compensate 1950s-born women who are affected by changes to the state pension age and to campaign on issues around the state pension age. In addition to ourselves as the four officers, we currently have 32 members and 2 supporters across the two Houses of Parliament from five political parties, which is fantastic engagement demonstrating a real will to see this issue is addressed under this new Government, hopefully in its first session given the urgency of the matter.

You will appreciate that this is an urgent matter, given that these women are pensioners and, to date, over 295,000 impacted women have passed away since 2015 without seeing this injustice addressed adequately.

Our APPG has worked hard to ensure we engage with a wide range of campaigners to help guide our work and we have a wealth of knowledge and expertise on this matter which both the Ombudsman and your predecessor found helpful. We hope that you may also find our work helpful in assisting you with your important work on this issue. We know you are aware that the APPG's officers met with your predecessor when the Ombudsman's report came out and took part in an evidence session on this matter and we would very much welcome the chance to keep feeding into the Select Committee's important work around this matter.

To this end, we are writing to ask that you will make time in your timetable in the next quarter to meet with us as the APPG's Co-Chairs privately and/or come to speak at one of our regular APPG meetings for a wider discussion with our members, as you prefer.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Long-Bailey
Member of Parliament for Salford
Co-Chair of the APPG on State Pension Inequality for Women

Bryn Davies
The Lord Davies of Brixton
Co-Chair of the APPG on State Pension Inequality for Women