

# Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)

## Parliamentary Briefing (July 2024)

### Headline WASPI statistics

- **285,000 WASPI women have died since the campaign began.** Another dies every 13 minutes.
- **68% back calls for 1950s-born women to receive compensation** (2,081 UK adults, May 2024).
- In the six months to Christmas 2023, **55% of affected women saw their economic position get worse; 33% struggled to pay essential bills; and 25% struggled to buy food** (8,059 WASPI women, Dec 2023).

### Key findings from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

- The PHSO's [final report](#), published on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, found maladministration in the way the DWP failed to communicate with affected women.
- The PHSO has taken the **extremely rare step of instructing Parliament to ensure the Department for Work and Pensions issues compensation and an apology** to those affected.
- The PHSO has recommended Level 4 (£1,250-£3,700) compensation
  - **However, the cross-party State Pension Inequality for Women APPG believes this recommendation does not go far enough, instead calling for Level 6 (c. £12,500) for the worst affected individuals.**
    - The cost to the public purse would be up to £36bn, however the Government has already saved £181.4bn in raising women's State Pension age.
- The PHSO has said it **does not have confidence in the DWP to deliver justice** as they refuse to recognise the clear finding of maladministration in the report.

Following the appointment of the new Work and Pensions Secretary, WASPI is calling for:

- All MPs to call for the **prompt delivery of fair and fast compensation** to those affected
- **Compensation scheme proposals** to be set out within **100 days of the new Parliament**

### Recommendations for ministers

1. The Government should bring forward proposals for a financial redress scheme within 100 days of the new Parliament, giving all MPs the opportunity to debate and vote on their proposals and put forward alternatives.

- This scheme should acknowledge the worst impacted: those who had the shortest notice of the longest delay to their State Pension age, with higher payments targeted to the worst impacted, in line with the [recommendations of the Work and Pensions Select Committee](#) (May 2024);
- The Government should acknowledge some women experienced direct financial loss in cases not examined by the PHSO (which the PHSO themselves have acknowledged), and make provision for those affected in this way to receive additional compensation payments, again in line with the recommendations of the Work and Pensions Select Committee;
- Within 100 days of the new Parliament, the Government should also set out: (a) eligibility for the compensation scheme; (b) the amounts to be paid under the scheme; (c) the administration of the scheme; and (d) the timeframe for compensation to be paid.

2. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions should make a Statement to the House of Commons, issuing a formal and genuine apology for the failures of successive administrations as soon as possible;

3. The DWP should set out how further increases to the State Pension age will be communicated to the public in the future.

#### Level of compensation sought

- WASPI, in line with the findings of the State Pension Inequality for Women APPG, believe Level 6 compensation on the PHSO's [Guide on Financial Remedy](#) is necessary and proportionate.
  - Former State Pension Inequality for Women APPG Co-Chairs Peter Aldous (Conservative) and Andrew Gwynne (Labour), released their [report](#) in 2022.
  - The report notes “profound, devastating or irreversible impacts” on 1950s-women, and that these economic, social and emotional impacts have been widespread and have forced those affected to endure a reduced quality of life for a considerable period which will not end until their losses are recognised through the award of fair compensation.
- The PHSO recommended Level 4 on their financial remedy scale, as a result of examining six test cases.
  - As the PHSO acknowledged in the [Work and Pensions Select Committee evidence session](#) on 7 May 2024, this was based on a narrow set of cases, which they themselves accept would not account for full range of impacts affected women experienced, including direct financial loss.
- Therefore, the Government should consider a ‘two-pronged’ compensation scheme.
  - Firstly, one that quickly delivers compensation to all affected women, including a higher level of compensation to those with the shortest notice of the longest delay to receiving their State Pension.
  - Secondly, an opportunity for those who incurred direct financial loss to make a claim.
  - This two-pronged approach would allow all women affected to receive speedy compensation, while not impeding the delivery of additional compensation to those who can demonstrate direct financial loss.

#### Why MPs should be given an urgent vote in Parliament

- MPs should have the opportunity to debate the contents of the PHSO's report and put forward alternative recommendations, including the APPG's recommendation of Level 6.
- It is vital for MPs, who have on average 5,500 WASPI women in their constituencies, to have the opportunity to put forward alternative proposals to compensate women at a level that acknowledges the impacts injured.
- The PHSO took the extremely rare step of laying its report before Parliament, instructing MPs to ensure justice is delivered as quickly as possible. More than three months have already passed since then.
- Ultimately, successive governments have got this wrong and ministers have failed to act. It is now in the hands of all Members of Parliament to remedy this injustice.

## About WASPI

WASPI calls for a one-off payment from the Government as **fair and fast compensation** for the lack of notice affected women received over State Pension age increases. This resulted in serious financial losses, and sustained damage to their mental health and wellbeing.

WASPI does *NOT* campaign for the retirement age for women to return to 60, nor does it take issue with the law change itself.



**YES – Fair and fast compensation for proven DWP maladministration**



**NO – Reversing the pension age to 60; or paying 'lost pensions'**

For further information, please contact [campaign@waspi.co.uk](mailto:campaign@waspi.co.uk)