**Suggested response to MP using Labour’s stock response to WASPI correspondence**

Dear [MP NAME],

Thank you for your response regarding the Government’s decision to ignore the Parliamentary Ombudsman’s instruction to compensate WASPI women. I would like to highlight a number of reflections about your reply and would be grateful if you would address these in turn.

Firstly, claiming most 1950s-born women knew the State Pension age was increasing isnot accurate.This statistic is from a 2006 survey which refers to a general awareness across the whole population about changes to the State Pension age in the future. It did *not* ask about whether people knew about the specific impact of State Pension age changes on them as individuals, and only around 5 per cent of survey respondents were 1950s-born women.

Secondly, the Parliamentary Ombudsman ruled that national financial challenges should not be barrier to awarding compensation. Money has been found for other causes, with public sector workers receiving a £9.4 billion pay rise from the Chancellor.

Furthermore, while compensating WASPI women is not an easy administrative task, it is also not a reason for avoiding action. The DWP also has a billion-pound budget and tens of thousands of staff. We elect politicians to deliver challenging projects, aided by the significant resources they have.

The Government’s political choice to ignore the Parliamentary Ombudsman sets a dangerous precedent as the role of independent ombudsmen is to ensure there are effective checks and balances on those in power. This decision will further erode trust in politics.

Ultimately, in laying their report before MPs, the Parliamentary Ombudsman has handed the role of compensating WASPI women to Parliament, regardless of the actions of any government.

**Therefore, will you commit to supporting WASPI compensation and consider joining the State Pension Inequality for Women APPG to ensure Parliament can play its role in delivering a fair remedy? I would also be grateful if you would ask the Chancellor and Work and Pensions Secretary if they will reconsider their position on compensation.**

Yours sincerely,

[Please include your full name, postal address and telephone number to show you are a constituent]