

Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) Briefing

Latest update

- The previous administration has repeatedly refused to compensate 1950s-born women and more than £100,000 has been raised this year to launch a High Court challenge
- Prime Minister **Andy Burnham restated his support for WASPI women** during the Makerfield by-election, promising to meet with the campaign to **explore routes to fair redress**
- **We need the new Government to meet with us as soon as possible and draw up plans this autumn to provide redress to WASPI women**

The Parliamentary Ombudsman's investigation

- In March 2024, the Parliamentary Ombudsman (PHSO) found maladministration in the way the DWP **failed to properly communicate increases** to women's State Pension age
 - As a result, many 1950s-born women were left with little time to make alternative retirement plans and suffered injustice
- The PHSO **asked MPs to intervene to deliver compensation** at Level 4 on their financial remedy scale (£1,000-£2,950) to those affected

The DWP's response

- The DWP subsequently **apologised for its mistakes**, and accepted the PHSO's finding of maladministration, but nonetheless **refused to set up a compensation scheme**
- After a legal challenge from WASPI, the DWP said it would review its position in full but their response, published in January 2026, was almost identical
- Therefore, **WASPI is now seeking another judicial review** against the DWP, raising more than £100,000 from the public. WASPI believes the case will be heard early next year given the challenge is based on similar arguments to the previous successful one

Why the DWP is wrong

- The PHSO identified, through internal DWP memos in 2005, that **officials knew considerable numbers of women were unaware** of planned State Pension age changes, yet they failed to act on their own research to remedy this. The PHSO said this failure was maladministration
 - **Women were denied the ability to make informed decisions**, while losing their sense of personal autonomy and financial control
- The Government can disagree with the PHSO, but they must do so on "cogent" reasons
 - WASPI believes relying on surveys which do not accurately reflect the impact on 1950s-born women, as well as various assumptions, is not cogent or rational

Latest statistics

- Polling carried out by Stack Data Strategy between 8 July and 4 August 2026 of 10,052 GB adults (18+) found:
 - **47% of the public** say WASPI women were wronged and should be compensated, compared with just **13% of the public** who disagree
 - When presented with a range of options of how the Government could respond, **83% of the public** say WASPI women should receive some form of financial compensation

We need your help! Ask your MP to:

- **Ask Prime Minister Andy Burnham** to act on the Parliamentary Ombudsman's findings and bring forward proposals to compensate WASPI women this autumn
- **Reaffirm their support to constituents** on social media, including posting their letter to the Prime Minister and meeting with local groups
- **Join the cross-party All-Party Parliamentary Group** for State Pension Inequality for Women and campaign alongside other MPs

About WASPI

WASPI calls for fair compensation for the lack of notice 1950s-born women received over State Pension age increases. This resulted in serious financial losses, and sustained damage to their 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. **For further information, please contact campaign@waspi.co.uk**