

Bob Seely MP

Via email: bob.seely.mp@parliament.uk

From

Cllr Phil Jordan

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Dear Bob

1995 Pensions Act – Impact for women born 1950s – 2012

You will no doubt already be aware of this issue, but at Full Council on 15 November, council agreed to raise this matter again with yourself and to ask for your support to raise this with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

In the 1995 Pensions Act, the Government increased State Pension age for women from 60 to 65, with a further increase to 66 in the 2011 Pensions Act. The change was not properly communicated to 3.8m women born in the 1950s until 2012, giving some only one year's notice of a six-year increase in their anticipated retirement age. There are approximately 10,950 affected women on the IOW, which is 7.82% of the population.

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found that the Department for Work and Pensions was guilty of maladministration in its handling of the State Pension Age increase for women born in the 1950s and an All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women has concluded that "the impact of DWP maladministration on 1950s-born women has been as devastating as it is widespread. The APPG believes that the case for category 6 injustice is overwhelming and clear.

Despite the Ombudsman's findings the government is choosing to wait for further reports before taking any action.

It is clear that this injustice has had a profound effect on the individuals involved, but also impacts the wider community on the Isle of Wight and on Isle of Wight Council, not least because:

- Women who would have looked after older relatives or partners are unable to afford to do so, with a knock-on impact on local social care on the Isle of Wight.
- Women who would have retired and engaged in caring responsibilities for grandchildren are having to continue working, increasing the childcare burden on the state locally.
- Women who have been left in poverty are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on risk of homelessness.
- There is a broader impact on voluntary services of all kinds locally, which are missing out on able, active volunteers who would otherwise have been able to retire from full-time work as planned.
- Our local economy is negatively affected by the reduced spending power and disposable income.

The Isle of Wight Council fully supports the conclusion of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship. In addition the council supports the WASPI Campaign for an immediate one-off compensation payment of between £11,666 and £20,000 to those affected, with the most going to women who were given the shortest notice of the longest increase in their state pension age.

We have written separately to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, a copy of which is attached for your information, to ask to outline the effects of the injustice to 1950s women on the community on the Isle of Wight and to ask that the government takes immediate action in line with the WASPI campaign request and would seek your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Phil Jordan
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and Cabinet Member for Transport Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport Strategy