



The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London SW1H 9NA

9th January 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

I write following your statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday 17 December 2024 regarding the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's (PHSO) report into Women's State Pension age communication.

GMB Union has long supported Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) and believes that the Government must address and resolve the injustice suffered by those women born in the 1950s who have suffered financially. While we understand the dreadful economic situation left by the previous Conservative Government, it is impossible not to recognise the huge disappointment felt across the country at your decision not to follow the PHSO report and compensate those affected.

A significant number of Labour MPs, including many members of the present Government, have been publicly unequivocal in their support to the WASPI campaign's ask for fair and fast compensation. Indeed, the PHSO would probably have never carried out an investigation if it was not for the efforts of the Labour movement in opposition and very public statements of support for the WASPI campaign. Following this regretful announcement, many will question the purpose of an ombudsman carrying out an investigation and making recommendations if they are simply ignored by ministers.

GMB is dismayed at the failure to follow through on support for the WASPI campaign and ask that you reconsider your decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Smith'.

Gary Smith
General Secretary

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