

Mover: Cllr Natasha Proctor
Seconder: Cllr Sarah Butterworth

[Amendment to Women Against State Pension Inequality Motion](#)

[Moved by Cllr Norman Stevenson](#)

[Seconded by Cllr Marilyn Ashton](#)

Women Against State Pension Inequality Motion

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

Thousands of women who live in Harrow, and hundreds of thousands nationally, had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995, [2007](#) and 2011 [under successive Governments](#), with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Thousands of women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

[The state pension is by far the largest benefit paid in the UK. It is paid from National Insurance receipts paid by those in work - predominantly much younger people. They are contributing to this benefit for an increasing proportion of our ageing population. This is why both equalisation and extending the starting age were essential to make it more affordable. Clearly a particular group of women have been adversely affected by this and communication of the changes was poor. This is why we support the review of transitional arrangements which will be carried out. The review should also include the effectiveness of communication with people affected by legislative changes. The issue is not the fault of the present government but the failure of successive Governments to communicate these changes and is not party political. The WASPI campaign has cross-party support.](#)

Harrow Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.