

<b>NOTICE OF MOTION</b>	<b>Date of Council Meeting: 15/01/25</b>
	<b>Mover:</b> Councillor Tarmey
	<b>Seconder:</b> Councillor A Carter
	<b>Title of Motion:</b> Kier Starmer's Labour Government have failed WASPI women

**Summary/Background:**

The ruling by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) in March 2024 was a vindication of the WASPI movement's efforts and it underscores the government's responsibility to address the injustices faced by these women. It also highlighted longstanding failures in government communication. This meant that affected women were not fully aware of the changes and exactly what it meant for them.

This injustice, perpetrated by successive Governments, has not only had a profound effect on the individuals involved but on the wider community in Rotherham and on local government, not least because:

This Council believes:

- Some 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.
- Some women who would have otherwise retired and chosen to care for their grandchildren, are having to continue working, increasing the childcare burden on the state locally.
- Some women have been left in poverty, and are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on local housing stock.
- 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 uncommunicated State Pension Age changes have brought about among women born in the 1950s.
- It is wrong for the government to have taken the decision not to promise compensation for women affected by changes in state pension age. The council recognises that Local MPs Sarah Champion and John Heeley have campaigned in support of WASPI women, but they have been badly let down by the new U.K. government.
- The cut to the Winter Fuel Allowance will only amplify problems for many of these women.

**This Council supports:**

- A swift resolution to this ongoing injustice before more and more women die waiting for compensation.
- The conclusion of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality that women born in the 1950s have suffered a gross injustice, affecting their emotional, physical and mental circumstances in addition to causing financial hardship.
- The calls for compensation for WASPI women who were adversely affected by the changes and inadequate communication around them.

**Therefore, this Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to:**

1. The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to reconsider their decision not to compensate WASPI women.
2. Local MPs to express the council's regret that they have failed in their duty to convince their own Government to compensate WASPI women.