Dear Mr. Field,

Thank you for your letter and apologies for the tardiness of my response but we have been overtaken by recent events and wanted to give you the most up to date response.

WASPI has had a dedicated sub group of Scottish co-ordinators for some time now, and this includes representatives from all over Scotland.

We delegate to the Secretariat of the Cross Party Group in Holyrood, and campaign nationally in Scotland, recently having held joint actions in various demos held in Glasgow and Edinburgh, National Days of Action in Falkirk and attended the Scottish Labour Party, Scottish Green Party and SNP party conferences, in addition to having forged links with various Scottish Trade Union branches and the Women’s STUC.

We had a very productive day on Saturday at the local engagement event in North Lanarkshire on Saturday facilitated by Hugh Gaffney and attended by John McDonnel. Anneleise Dodds and Richard Leonard.

As you know, State Pensions are a matter currently reserved to Westminster, but there are aspects of the changes to State Pension Age increases around poverty, longevity and rural communities which arguably affect the Scottish populace to a greater degree, especially when discussions around actuarially reduced pensions and the responsibilities of devolved Governments will be ongoing.

Following the recent reorganisation of the WASPI Ltd. Board, who are currently in discussions as to whether the Scottish groups will be included their organisation, and the ongoing DWP legal challenges both at Judicial Review and Parliamentary Ombudsman level, we are in the process of formalising our presence as Scottish Women Against State Pension Injustice on an organisational level, with a view to our affiliations to a National WASPI campaign and the One Voice organisations as the members see fit.

Last week we saw women in our cohort receiving replies that their cases were being closed by the ICE at the DWP due to the upcoming Judicial Review brought forward by the Back to 60 pensions group. We are currently seeking advice as to the legitimacy of this as our complaints were related to the maladministration of the implementation of the changes. As you can imagine with these women having been in this process for years now, frustrations are running higher than ever.

This is an extremely vital issue in Scotland, reflected in the fact that we have amongst the largest and most active local campaigning groups in the UK.

We believe a further enquiry is an essential tool for representing these women at Westminster and highlighting further disadvantages they and their partners now face due to the implementation of the new State Pension in addition to their frustrations at the DWP complaint process.

We would request that a future enquiry would invite an input from Scottish Women Against State Pension Injustice as an organisation and include a delegate from within our ranks.

I look forward to your response and advice on this important matter,

Kindest regards

Rosemary Dickson  Co-ordinator WASPI Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire Group. (writing on behalf of the Scottish WASPI group)