From the Chair

8 November 2018

Guy Opperman MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions and Financial Inclusion
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
SW1H 9NA

Dear Guy,

Pension age equalisation day

Tuesday 6 November 2018 has been described as a “landmark day”, for the reason—of which I am sure you are aware—that women aged 65 on this day are the first to wait as long as men for their state pension.

According to analysis by the House of Commons Library, around 240,000 women affected by the 1995 and 2011 Pension Acts have now reached State Pension Age (SPA). But there are around 300,000 in the most affected cohort—born between 6 December 1953 and 5 October 1954 whose wait for SPA was extended by 18 months—who will begin to reach SPA from March 2019. From then, approximately 30,000 women will move over that threshold every two months.

The time to right this injustice is quickly slipping by. If anything is to be done to mitigate the consequences of changes to the SPA for affected women, it surely must be before March next year.

Please could you therefore confirm:

- whether the Department is currently working on any plans to mitigate the consequences of changes to the State Pension Age for affected women?; and

- whether it is considering, as one option, the Work and Pensions Committee’s recommendation that affected women be able to draw their state pension early, at an actuarially neutral rate?

Best wishes and I look forward to receiving your response,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee