Dear Angela,

**Pension age equalisation day**

Tuesday 6 November 2018 has been described as a “landmark day”, marking the first time women have waited 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.

I have written to the Minister to bring these facts to his attention and to argue that if anything is to be done to mitigate the consequences of changes to the SPA for affected women, the time is now.

You may recall that the Work and Pensions Committee recommended two years ago that affected women should be able to draw their state pension early, at an actuarially neutral rate. I am seeking the Minister’s views on this proposal and am also asking whether Government has any other plans to mitigate the consequences of changes to the SPA for affected women. I would be interested to know, likewise, whether WASPI would be in a position to accept this proposal or something similar.

Best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP  
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee