

## Maggie Chapman MSP North East Scotland

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP Prime Minister 10 Downing Street London SW1A 2AA

Our Ref: MC5374 8 July 2024

Dear Keir,

Re: WASPI campaign for pension justice

Congratulations on your election as Prime Minister.

I write to you as the Scottish Green Party's Social Security spokesperson about the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign. You will know that women born in the 1950s have been unfairly treated by accelerated changes to the State Pension age and that these changes were not adequately communicated to them. You will also be aware of the recommendations of the Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman's report from March this year instructing the UK Government to apologise to the women affected and administer a compensation plan without delay.

I urge you to honour the promises that many Labour MPs made to women during their election campaigns and deliver a fast and fair compensation plan.

MPs elected from several other parties, including the Green Party of England and Wales, stood on manifesto commitments to deliver justice for the thousands of women across the UK affected by pension injustices. You have the opportunity to show cooperative leadership and solidarity by putting in place a scheme that appropriately compensates women now in their seventies for pension changes that many of them were not aware of.

This is about justice: for the women directly affected, their families and communities. This is also about equality. The women affected have been subjected to structural inequalities their whole lives: gender pay gaps, exclusions from company pension schemes, exclusion from the labour market due to marriage or caring commitments, to name but a few. And society has suffered as a result of both the injustice and inequality borne out of Government incompetence and slapdash policy making.

Every 13 minutes, a WASPI woman dies. Every 13 minutes, a woman, who might have lost several years' worth of her pension — maybe as much as £42,000 — dies without justice or equality.

You have the chance to put this right. Please do.

Yours sincerely,

Maggie Chapman MSP North East Scotland

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