



Department
for Work &
Pensions

THE RT HON PAT MCFADDEN MP
Secretary of State for Work & Pensions

Caxton House
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Debbie Abrahams MP
Work and Pension Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 November 2025

Dear Debbie

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman investigation into Women's State Pension age communication

I am writing to draw your attention to the Oral Statement made today relating to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman investigation into Women's State Pension age communication and associated issues.

On 17 December 2024, my predecessor made an oral statement and deposited a copy of the Government's detailed response in the House Library. Since then, as part of the legal proceedings challenging the Government decision, evidence has been cited about research findings from a 2007 report. This was a DWP evaluation of the effectiveness of Automatic Pension Forecast letters.

Had this report been provided to the then Secretary of State she would of course have considered it alongside all other relevant evidence and material.

In light of this - and in the interests of fairness and transparency – I have concluded that the Government should consider this evidence now. This means we will retake the decision as it relates to the communications on State Pension Age made last December.

We will approach this following proper process and in a transparent and fair manner. However, retaking this decision should not be taken as an indication that Government will necessarily decide that it should award financial redress.

The work will begin immediately and we will update the House on the decision as a conclusion is reached.

Best wishes,

The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions