



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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e-mail: john.spellar.mp@parliament.uk

JFS/LC

8th February 2017

Mr Jan Britton,
Chief Executive,
Sandwell Metro Borough Council,
Sandwell Council House,
P O Box 2374,
Oldbury,
West Midlands B69 3DE.

Dear Jan,

I enclose a copy of the unhelpful reply from the Secretary of State at the Department for Work & Pensions.

They cannot even get your designation right.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon John F Spellar MP,
Warley.

Enc:



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Secretary of State
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA

0207 340 4000

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ministers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Your ref: JFS/LC

Rt Hon John F Spellar MP
House of Commons

Our ref: POS(1)10563/212

30 January 2017

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January on behalf of Ms Jan Britton, Chief Executive of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, regarding the increases in women's State Pension age with a request that the Government reconsiders the transitional arrangements.

Ms Britton also wrote directly to me concerning this matter and hope that she will accept this as a reply to that letter as well.

The last Government accelerated the timetable at which changes to the retirement age occurred because of increases in longevity which meant that the public finances (which are used to support everyone in society - not just pensioners) had to be protected in order to maintain the viability of the State Pension over the longer term. Any future increases in longevity will need to be re-assessed along similar lines to ensure affordability and sustainability.

A change limiting the increase in State Pension age under the 2011 Act in any individual case to 18 months has already been made during the passage of the Act (at a cost of £1.1 billion), and under the 2014 Act there are changes in other parts of the pension system that ensure that when women do start to receive their pension, they do better on average than under the pre-2016 pension system.

Whilst I note Ms Britton's concerns, there is no prospect of introducing further mitigations at this stage; some mitigations are already in place, and going further than this could not be justified given the underlying imperative must be to focus public resources on those most in need.

Yours,



The Rt Hon Damian Green MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS