





WASPI CAMPAIGN



Women Against State Pension Injustice

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Annual Report November 2025

1. The Campaign

Just over a month after our last AGM, the Government finally responded to the report of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) via a statement by Liz Kendall, the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in the House of Commons (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/government-response-to-parliamentary-and-health-service-ombudsman-phso-report>).

The Government accepted that there had been maladministration, and apologised. However it took issue with the Ombudsman's approach to injustice and remedy, concluding that "there should be no scheme of financial compensation ... in response to the Ombudsman's report."

Three members of the Steering Group (Hilary Simpson, Judith Robertson and Elizabeth Stanely) were interviewed by The Guardian the following day about their reaction.

'It's undemocratic': Waspi women on the decision not to pay compensation

Some are questioning loyalty to Labour while others say move is unconstitutional

Amelia Hill

Wed 18 Dec 2024 15.43 GMT

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<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2024/dec/18/its-undemocratic-women-give-views-on-decision-not-to-compensate-waspi-women>

The anger, frustration and disappointment at the Government's decision was widely shared both inside and outside Parliament and there was a flurry of activity in early 2025.

- On 15 January a packed and oversubscribed Westminster Hall debate was held, at which the newly appointed Pensions Minister Torsten Bell responded on behalf of the Government.
- On 27 January the APPG for State Pension Inequality for Women wrote to the Chancellor and the Work and Pensions Secretary asking them to "review the Government's approach to the PHSO's March 2024 report, to meet with us as an APPG to discuss ways forward towards justice for these women, and ultimately to allow time for a Parliamentary debate and vote on redress mechanisms".
- On 28 January the SNP Leader Stephen Flynn introduced a Ten Minute Rule Motion requiring ministers to draw up a compensation scheme for WASPI women (its second reading was blocked).
- On 17 March a Petition Debate took place after a petition calling on the Government to fairly compensate WASPI women attracted more than 150,000 signatures.
- On 3 July there was a Backbench Business Debate on "Financial Redress for 1950s Women Impacted by DWP Maladministration of State Pension Age Changes".

The Government's decision not to award financial compensation was based on questionable arguments, including survey material taken out of context. Our fellow campaigners at Women Against State Pension Inequality Ltd therefore took legal advice and in February 2025 decided to seek a Judicial Review of the decision, funded by Crowdfunder. Permission to proceed was granted in June and the hearing will take place on 9-10 December 2025, almost a year after the Government's decision was announced. The result is not likely to be known before Spring 2026.



Despite this activity in the early part of 2025, it has proved challenging to maintain the momentum of the campaign during the waiting periods associated with the Judicial Review process. Our primary focus has been on keeping MPs informed through our monthly email bulletin, *The Buzz*. This now reaches almost two-thirds of MPs, who receive it directly from one or more of their WASPI constituents. Thanks are due to the many hundreds of supporters who make up the Swarm and send *The Buzz* as a personal communication to their MP.

Our Secretary Elaine Wroblewska also represented the West Midlands at a drop-in for MPs at Westminster in October, organised by our fellow campaigners.

The WASPI movement has now been going for ten years and the women affected are aged between 65 and 75. Health issues and caring responsibilities have inevitably taken their toll and while there is no prospect of the campaign going away, it may need to adjust to the reality of an ageing supporter base.

2. Local Groups



Our groups are vital in keeping the campaign alive at a local level, especially through interacting with MPs and providing support and networking for women affected by the WASPI issue.

Groups have also taken part in a number of local and national events to raise and maintain awareness of our campaign. As part of International Workers Memorial Day on 28 April, several of our local groups laid wreaths to commemorate the 1950s women who have died since the start of the campaign. In May, our Yorkshire group took part in the annual “With Banners Held High” festival; in July the Hartlepool group were at the Durham Miners Gala; and in September some of our intrepid activists were to be seen outside the Labour Party Conference.

The Local Group Network Coordinator is in regular contact with Local Group Coordinators, and Coordinator catch-up meetings have been held on Zoom.

The Steering Group produce leaflets for local groups to use at events, issue guidelines for meetings and correspondence with MPs, and provide template press releases for the local media.

3. Communications

In addition to *The Buzz*, our regular email specifically designed to keep MPs informed, our online presence is crucial in keeping in touch with our supporters.

- Our website, managed by Carla O'Hara (West Lothian), had over 8,000 visitors during the last year and a performance score (which compares performance with the websites of other similar organisations) of 93%. Almost 400 email enquiries were received and responded to via the website over the past year.
- Our public Facebook page, managed by Liz Daly (West Dunbartonshire), is our main vehicle for keeping in touch with supporters. It has almost 15,000 followers and popular posts can attract 500,000 views.
- Our X (Twitter) account, managed by Janet Blackman (Lewes), has over 1,000 followers and is critical in maintaining engagement with MPs.

4. The Steering Group

The following Local Group Coordinators were elected to form the Steering Group at the 2024 AGM:

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| 1. Janet Blackman | <i>Lewes</i> |
| 2. Elizabeth Daly | <i>West Dunbartonshire</i> |
| 3. Dilys Jouvenat | <i>Rhondda</i> |
| 4. Pamela Judge | <i>Ceredigion Preseli</i> |
| 5. Carla O'Hara | <i>West Lothian</i> |
| 6. Judith Robertson | <i>Salford & Eccles</i> |
| 7. Hilary Simpson | <i>South Cotswolds</i> |
| 8. Elizabeth Stanley | <i>Stroud</i> |
| 9. Elaine Wroblewska | <i>Solihull</i> |

At the first meeting of the Steering Group Hilary Simpson was elected as Chair, Dilys Jouvenat as Secretary (until January 2025), and Elizabeth Stanley as Treasurer.

Further roles were allocated as follows:

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| 1. Dilys Jouvenat | Vice Chair/Local Group Network Coordinator |
| 2. Pamela Judge | Vice Chair/Public Relations |
| 3. Janet Blackman | Social media - X (Twitter) |
| 4. Elizabeth Daly | Social media - Facebook |
| 5. Carla O'Hara | Social media - website and Facebook |

The Steering Group meets monthly via Zoom.

As Chair, I would like to thank all the members of the Steering Group who have given their time and energy selflessly and unstintingly to the work of the campaign over the past year to secure justice for their 3.8 million sisters.

I would particularly like to thank two members of the Steering Group who are stepping down after many years dedication to the campaign.

Dilys Jouvenat and Liz Daly have both been with the campaign since its early days. Dilys has been a calm and efficient Secretary, drawing on her considerable experience in the public and voluntary sectors to ensure the smooth running of the Steering Group and the management of our network of local groups. With her help the Swarm sprang up almost overnight and has become a force to be reckoned with. Liz has injected a sense of fun into our social media output, and her extensive work with her local MP Douglas McAllister means that he is now known as "Liz's MP". They will be sorely missed on the Steering Group although we are pleased to report that both will continue to act as Coordinators for their local groups in Rhondda and West Dunbartonshire respectively.

Hilary Simpson

Chair, WASPI (Women Against State Pension Injustice) Campaign 2018
November 2025