

APPENDIX B**Extract from Position Statement made by Mrs Posnett to the
County Council Meeting on 21st March 2018****Pensions for women born in the 1950's**

'As part of my previous role, I met with a delegation from the campaign group WASPI to listen to their concerns about the impact of the decision taken by the Coalition Government to bring forward the date for the equalisation of the retirement age for men and women.

Whilst it was accepted that the retirement age for both men and women should be the same the WASPI concerns centred on the timing of and information provided to women born in the 1950's who already made retirement plans and would now face a significant reduction in their pension or would have to wait longer for their pensions.

One of the main concerns was in relation to the notification of the changes and the Work and Pensions Committee of the House of Commons concluded that 'more could and should have been done' to communicate the changes. The responsibility for communicating these changes rests with the Department of Work and Pensions and any women who feel that the DWP have failed in their responsibility to do so can and should take the matter up, firstly with the DWP, and failing which raise the matter with the Ombudsman.

The Government's position is that the changes proposed by the Coalition Government were debated extensively in Parliament and a concession was made prior to the passing of the Act which reduced the delay that anyone would experience in claiming their State Pension, relative to the previous 1995 timetable, to 18 months. This concession will cost approximately £1.1billion. To meet the demands of WASPI would cost an estimated £30billion - a cost which would have to be borne by working age people.

I have considerable sympathy for the WASPI campaign and for those women whose retirement plans have been adversely affected. An all-Party Parliamentary Group has been set up and I am pleased it has taken up the campaign on behalf of WASPI. That is the right forum for such action as this is a matter for central government.

At the meeting with WASPI it was clear that there was a need for more information on pensions generally and following that meeting Ian Howe, the Pensions Manager, offered to speak to the local WASPI group about pension taxation to expand their knowledge and understanding on the clear understanding that he;

- a) cannot offer any financial advice
- b) is there totally by invite and not to influence or support WASPI in any way.

Ian has also offered to speak to those in the Local Government Pension Scheme who are also affected by the changes. I think this is a practical way in which we can help such women'.

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