

Jeremy Miles AC/AM
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog Brexit
Counsel General and Brexit Minister



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref : WAQ78255

Helen Mary Jones AM
Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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5 June 2019

Dear Helen,

WRITTEN ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR ANSWER BY THE COUNSEL GENERAL AND BREXIT MINISTER ON 22 MAY 2019: EQUALISATION OF WOMEN'S PENSION AGE

I refer to your Written Assembly Question which asked as follows:

Will the Counsel General provide an update on what actions the Welsh Government could take in relation to the expected litigation against the Department for Work and Pensions for the alleged mishandling of raising the state pension age for women born in the 1950s? (WAQ78255)

I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Welsh Government remains very concerned that the impact of the Pension Acts of 1995 and 2011 is disproportionately affecting a number of women who have had their State Pension Age raised significantly without effective or sufficient notification.

The Welsh Government's concerns are not in relation to the equalisation of the State Pension Age but rather with the poor and untimely communication to those women most disproportionately impacted by the changes.

State pensions are a non-devolved matter, however, and are the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions in the UK Government. The Welsh Ministers have no executive functions under state pension legislation. Unfortunately, this means I cannot see a basis on which we may currently have powers to intervene in the litigation against the UK Government.

As I also said in Plenary, the Welsh Government has written to the UK Government to express its concerns about the impacts of the increase in the State Pension Age. Most recently, the Welsh Government wrote to the UK Government expressing its concerns over the issue by letter dated 16 May 2019.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Welsh Government will continue to raise its concerns with the UK Ministers who remain responsible for these matters and will continue to monitor the developments, particularly with regard to the judicial review and the work of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman in investigating a sample of complaints about the Department of Work and Pensions and Independent Case Examiner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JM', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Jeremy Miles AM

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