# WASPI warns Keir Starmer over pension compensation after local election setbacks



The WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaign group, established in 2015, has issued a warning to Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer following a disappointing outcome for the Labour Party in recent local elections. The group continues to advocate for compensation due to the government's refusal to pay funds owed to women affected by changes to state pension ages.

A report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman last year outlined that women born between 1950 and 1955 faced significant hardships due to the accelerated equalisation of state pension ages, which raised the female retirement age from 60 to 65. Originally prescribed by the 1995 Pensions Act, the adjustment was intended to be gradually implemented over a decade starting in 2010. However, the 2011 Pensions Act hastened this process, leaving many women poorly informed about these changes and unprepared for their financial impacts.

WASPI estimates the transitional payments owed to these women at £2,950, as indicated in the Ombudsman’s report. The group has consistently argued that the government should provide these payments to mitigate the adverse effects resulting from the pension reforms.

Angela Madden, chair of WASPI, remarked on the local election results, stating, “The local election results make grim reading for both the Labour and Conservative parties and show the political cost of failing to deliver on your promises.” She further cautioned that if the government continues to ignore the calls for compensation, it could jeopardise their position in the upcoming General Election, potentially benefiting opposition parties such as Reform.

The pressure on the government is compounded by the broader implications of the recent electoral outcomes, with WASPI suggesting that the failure to address their concerns could lead to significant electoral consequences for the ruling parties. As the situation develops, the WASPI campaign group remains vocal in its demands for justice and financial recompense for those affected by the pension age changes.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/76257901-5c04-4d9f-9d86-8d6d9f8c02f9> - This article discusses the UK government's potential multibillion-pound compensation bill following the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's ruling on mishandling state pension age increases for women born in the 1950s, corroborating the claim about the Ombudsman's report and the government's refusal to pay funds owed to affected women.
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/39b52386-101d-44fe-8aa2-3f25ed39ba84> - This piece reports on the UK government's decision against compensating approximately 3.8 million women born in the 1950s who claim they lost thousands of pounds due to inadequate notification about changes to the state pension age, supporting the assertion about the government's refusal to pay funds owed to affected women.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czr36842nd6o> - This article details the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign's reaction to the government's rejection of compensation for women affected by changes to the state pension age, aligning with the claim about WASPI's continued advocacy for compensation.
4. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/700765> - This petition calls on the UK government to fairly compensate WASPI women affected by increases to their state pension age and associated communication failings, supporting the claim about WASPI's advocacy for compensation.
5. <https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/pensions/article-12420913/Over-250-000-women-affected-state-pension-age-changes-died-waiting-compensation.html> - This article highlights that over 250,000 women affected by state pension age changes have died while waiting for compensation, underscoring the urgency of WASPI's demands for justice and financial recompense.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/state-pension-age-women-dwp-ombudsman-b1146736.html> - This report discusses the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's findings of maladministration by the Department for Work and Pensions in communicating state pension age changes to women, supporting the claim about the Ombudsman's report and the government's refusal to pay funds owed to affected women.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2051003/waspi-women-issue-update-dwp> - Please view link - unable to able to access data