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Notification Arrangements for Women's State Pension Age Changes

Thank you for contacting me about the state pension age and the question of how the DWP communicated with the people affected.

I understand that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) wrote to all the women affected by the 2011 changes, using the address details supplied by HMRC. This involved sending more than 5 million letters between January 2012 and November 2013. All those affected by the 1995 changes were also written to between April 2009 and March 2011.

The 10 year standard for giving notice of pension age changes was introduced in 2015 as part of a review into the future handling of such changes.

Additionally, a Government leaflet entitled *Equality in State Pension Age: A Summary of Changes* was issued in July 1995. The DWP ran an information campaign in 2004 informing people of the upcoming equalisation in State Pension age, and this campaign included advertising in the press and in women's magazines, and developing an interactive online State Pension age calculator via the Pension Service website. A 2004 DWP report following these campaigns found that, even at that time, 73 per cent of people aged 45 to 54 were already aware of the 1995 changes.

Since 1995, State Pension estimates, which make the 1995 changes clear, have been available on request from the DWP. Since April 2000, more than 11.5 million personalised statements have been issued, and the Department continues to encourage people to request statements.

I hope this reassures you of the DWP's commitment to ensuring that those affected by the state pension age changes were properly informed.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP