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for Work &
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HM Treasury

HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
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Rebecca Long-Bailey MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

27 August 2025

Dear Rebecca,

I am writing to explain a correction I have proposed to a response I gave you during the 3rd July debate on financial redress for 1950s women impacted by Department for Work and Pensions maladministration of State Pension age changes.

I have copied our relevant contributions for your reference:

Rebecca Long Bailey: Many of the campaign groups are clear that the statistics used by Government to justify no redress are misquoted and misinformed, painting a picture that is completely at odds with the experiences of thousands of impacted women, as the hon. Member for Gosport (Dame Caroline Dinenage) has outlined, the ombudsman's findings and the results of independent research. Research by the Department for Work and Pensions in 2003 showed that only 43% of all women affected by the changes knew that their state pension age was changing. The research itself even comments that:

"This low figure provides cause for concern and shows that information about the increase in SPA is not reaching the group of individuals who arguably have the greatest need to be informed."

Independent research, including a focus group study by Age UK from as late as 2011, has also found that many women believed that they were still going to retire with a state pension at 60.

Torsten Bell: My hon. Friend the Member for Salford mentioned the statistic of 43%, referring to the 2024 rather than 2023 survey. However, as she will know, that refers to all women, including some women as young as 16; if we look at the cohort of women born in the 1950s, the figure is far, far higher. On

those and other grounds, we rejected the ombudsman's approach to injustice and remedy.

Correction

I have applied to correct the dates to reflect that the survey was completed and published in 2004. I have also applied to clarify the point that while the survey makes clear that knowledge of State Pension age increases with age, it does not provide a breakdown of awareness level of one's own State Pension age by age categories.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Torsten Bell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Torsten Bell MP

Minister for Pensions