

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team

e-mail: [freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: Fol 3134

DATE: 18 August 2017

Dear Elspeth Waterworth

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 26 July 2017. You asked:

*Why is there over a 4 year gap in SPA for a 20 month age difference? I.E. Born April 1953, received SP August 2016, yet born December 1954, SP will not be due until December 2020. This new SPA has been introduced at a vastly accelerated pace and also very unfairly, why?*

**DWP Response:**

In relation to your questions it may be helpful if I explain the role of the Freedom of Information Act. The Act provides a right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like DWP (subject to certain exemptions). The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation in relation to issues/policies under question.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the information, we have met our obligations under the Act.

Firstly I refer you to the White paper 'A sustainable State Pension: when the State Pension age will increase to 66' which explains the reason for accelerating Spa which can be found here: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130125120625/http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/cp-nov10-spa-66-full-document.pdf>

In addition, The 2011 Impact Assessment describes the impact of these changes: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pensions-act-2011-impact-assessment>

Due to a government concession costing £1.1 billion, no one is having to wait longer than 18 months compared to the 1995 timetable. Details on this concession can be found in the Pension Bill 2011 fact sheet 1 – Government amendment to Clause 1 of Pensions Bill 2011, at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/182066/pensions-bill-spa-info.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182066/pensions-bill-spa-info.pdf)

During the passage of the Bill the government introduced transitional arrangements to cap the increase in SPa to a maximum of 18 months relative to the timetable in the 1995 Act. I have

attached a link to DWP fact sheet on the concession -

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/182066/pensions-bill-spa-info.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182066/pensions-bill-spa-info.pdf).

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

DWP Strategy Fol Team

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**Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk) or by writing to DWP, Central Fol Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)