

PROJECT: Back To 60 Campaign #BackTo60  
Location: BBC Radio Kent August 2018 ONE VOICE  
Contact: Jo Welch  
Date of transcription: 18 August 2018  
RECORDED MINUTES: 10.48 minutes (*shortened version to show just the DH interview*)

THE DAVID HENCKE INTERVIEW

With BBC RADIO KENT, 2018.

Recording commences: Clattering noises

(interview is conducted via telephone)

INVR: ... be one of an estimated 100,000 women in Kent, caught out by the changes to State Pension. They're called the WASPI women, which stands for Women Against State Pension Inequality, in case you wondered.

Erm, it's basically any woman born in the 50s, 60s, erm, from 60 to 65, that's the, the pension age has gone up from 60 to 65, if you were born in the 50s. Many women say they were devastated when they found out about the change.

INVR: Let me bring in David, David Hencke, an investigative journalist, so, he's been covering this issue. David, is that the main complaint from the Waspi women? Is that, how it was, how it was handled, the way it was done?

DAVID: Erm, that is one of the biggest complaints, both from Waspi women and, actually, Back To 60, who are taking the government to court, they ... yes, they have, actually lodged a, erm, a claim for a Judicial Review, on the grounds of the huge hardship that's hit these women. And, frankly, the two things I would say 1: a decision taken 30 years ago, in 1988, erm, was made to no longer top up the National Insurance Fund, which is the Fund that's used as a complicated Pay As You Go system to pay pensions and, and a number of benefits.

They, basically, took the decision to no longer, the Treasury, to no longer fund it. Over the last 24 years, roughly, £271 billion has been taken out of it, if I use a, erm, basically, social security expert, ... time, and it's been taken out on the grounds that a decision was made, that could see that erm, basically, people could be living longer, erm, rather than fund that, they decided that the best solution was to raise pension age, and, I might add, that the case has been rather strengthened, until ... you were quite right, 1961 to 2011, every year, there'd be an increase in people living longer, as was revealed yesterday, by the Office of National Statistics ... this is completely stalled. Particularly for women. It's down ... the gross is down 90%, Nine, 0 percent.

So, basically, erm, the whole government's idea that we're going to live, erm, longer and longer, it's beginning to completely stall, it looks like they're coming to, to the end of this [okay] and ...

INVR: ... well, the thing is about these women, is that, I mean, yes, I've had my pension erm, age increased by one year, because I was already, not supposed to retire until I was 65, erm, but these women have had six years, in some cases, put on, it's a massive difference, isn't it?

DAVID: Yes, and actually, there was, there was a really cruel thing to it, the government in 1995, okay, they passed this, but, if you, I don't know, if you have a bank account, or anything else, I bet you'll get a letter if they're changing anything that affects your account?

PROJECT: Back To 60 Campaign #BackTo60  
Location: BBC Radio Kent August 2018 ONE VOICE  
Contact: Jo Welch  
Date of transcription: 18 August 2018  
RECORDED MINUTES: 10.48 minutes (*shortened version to show just the DH interview*)

Erm, if you had been, never told, some of these women have told me, they did not find out ... because, basically, the government should have written to these 3, erm, million people, and told them so they could plan ahead.

INVR: Well, we, we've heard examples of people ... erm, taking redundancy just before they were due to retire, expecting to get their pension a week later. And then they found they weren't!

DAVID: Yes, I mean, I mean, I have ... but, put up a blog about this, it's a sham, and I've been staggered, I've had 152,000 people (overlapping) ... people are furious.

INVR: they're angry, I know ... John if I ...

DAVID: ... very angry ...

INVR: John, if I ... yeah, go on, sorry David, just ...

DAVID: I was going to say, out there, so, I mean, I've had 400 comments, and some of the stories are heart rendering, about women who have actually fallen, you know, they've got, as you get older, you get more diseases and ... other things, or they're having to care for sick, other people, like their parents, or even their husband, and ... they, basically, they're in dire, dire straits ...

INVR: ... yes, John? I mean (overlapping) ...

DAVID: ... difficult to get work, as well, because people don't want ...

INVR: Yes, the fact is, I suppose, back in the day, you just knew you were retiring at 60, why would you check it? You knew ... you were retiring at 65 if you're a bloke, why would you check it?

That was the deal.

WOMAN: Well, somebody's going to actually, says, I can't understand how these women did not know about the pension age increase. It was announced about 15 years ago, it's been phased in for some time, they say. I knew a lady who had a pension about three years ago, at 62, ... well, thing is, they didn't get letters why would you check?

INVR: Well, you wouldn't check, that, that's right, it was, ... a big thing like that, people should have got letters, I think, and the government admit that, in the future, they would. I suppose, for the, erm, ... Department of Work and Pensions sent us a statement, which, actually, to be honest, I don't even understand, so there's no point me reading it to you, because it won't mean, it doesn't mean anything to anyone (overlapping) ...

WOMAN: It sort of talks about people living longer, and it talks about saving money and ...

INVR: So, there we are, if you are one of the Waspi women, a woman who is affected by this, give us a call xxxxxxxxxxxx

WOMAN: Yeah, keep your messages coming in on that one. It's seventeen minutes past seven, a lot of you getting in touch about Boris Johnson

Clattering noise.

**Recording ends.**

Transcribed by Frances Hilton, t/a Scriptorium UK  
Email: [Scriptoriumtranscriptsuk@gmail.com](mailto:Scriptoriumtranscriptsuk@gmail.com)