

## **WASPI Steering Group Member: POLITICAL**

### Role Description + Person Specification

#### Background:

WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) was started in May 2015 by five women who decided to campaign for transitional pension arrangements for women born in the 1950s (after 6 April 1951), who have been affected by the impact of changes in their state pension age.

The initial effort has grown into a huge national campaign (see [www.waspi.co.uk](http://www.waspi.co.uk)) and in August 2016 it was decided that the campaign had become too big to be 'managed' by just five women and that the time had come to set up a proper structure.

The first step in the process is to recruit individuals from a number of backgrounds who are able to offer their skills, experience, time, commitment and enthusiasm to WASPI as volunteers and to form a Steering Group that will take the Campaign forward.

It is envisaged that the Steering Group will have members with skills/experience in the following areas:

- Political: lobbying, campaigning
- Public campaigning
- Research
- Legal
- Communications: media, social media
- Marketing, PR
- Organisational/volunteer development
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Secretarial: incl. company secretary

In addition, the Steering Group will have a number of representatives of WASPI Local Group Co-ordinators – as elected by the Co-ordinators.

The recruitment process will be conducted in accordance with equal opportunities guidelines.

#### Role Description: POLITICAL

The successful applicant will:

- Take the lead on producing a political campaigning strategy
- Undertake appropriate research (in conjunction with Research Steering Group member)
- Prepare comprehensive lobbying information/briefings and review regularly
- Ensure that a well-organised lobbying campaign continues to take place at local level aimed at constituency MPs and that regular updates are provided to and feedback is obtained from local lobbyists

- Ensure that feedback is efficiently recorded and used timely at any opportunity
- Ensure that key politicians/decision makers receive regular briefings and approaches from WASPI
- Establish relationships with key politicians/decision makers and where beneficial involve others on Steering Group
- Be key (but not sole) representative/spokesperson on behalf of WASPI at meetings/negotiations with politicians/government (incl. APPG)
- Formally report monthly to the Steering Group with a detailed progress report on local and national campaign progress
- Urgently report any new developments and work in consultation with Steering Group on responses
- If deemed necessary/advisable by Steering Group set up a Political sub-group with a variety of skills to take on different aspects of the political campaign strategy
- Accept that this is a strategically important role and that any decisions re strategic political direction and responses to Government statements do not lie solely with the post holder, but with the Steering Group as a whole

#### Person Specification: POLITICAL

The successful applicant will:

##### (Essential)

- Have current/recent experience of working in the political/parliamentary arena
- Have the ability to rapidly 'get to grips' with the background to and the aims of the WASPI campaign and its political activities to date and build on this
- Have the skills to draft a campaign strategy with actions and timelines
- Have very comprehensive writing skills in order to prepare lobby packs/briefings for local WASPI groups (aimed at the 'layman' and therefore in 'layman' language) as well as briefings for MPs and Ministers
- Be highly-skilled in establishing and maintaining contacts at a high political level
- Possess good research skills
- Have good recording and reporting skills
- Have the ability to 'harness' other people's skills and goodwill into positive action
- Be fully committed to the aims of the Campaign
- Have excellent communication skills – both written and verbal – and be able to explain complex political issues in layman's terms to the Steering Group and others
- Be able to work in a 'democratic environment' where group decisions may from time to time override personal opinions and advice
- Have an average of approx. 10 hours a week available to contribute to the campaign. This will be variable depending on the direction/status of the Campaign.
- Will be available for regular Skype calls with other Steering Group members

##### (Desirable)

- Have experience of working in/with the voluntary sector
- Be tolerant and understanding of lack of knowledge in others

- Have a sense of humour, grit and determination