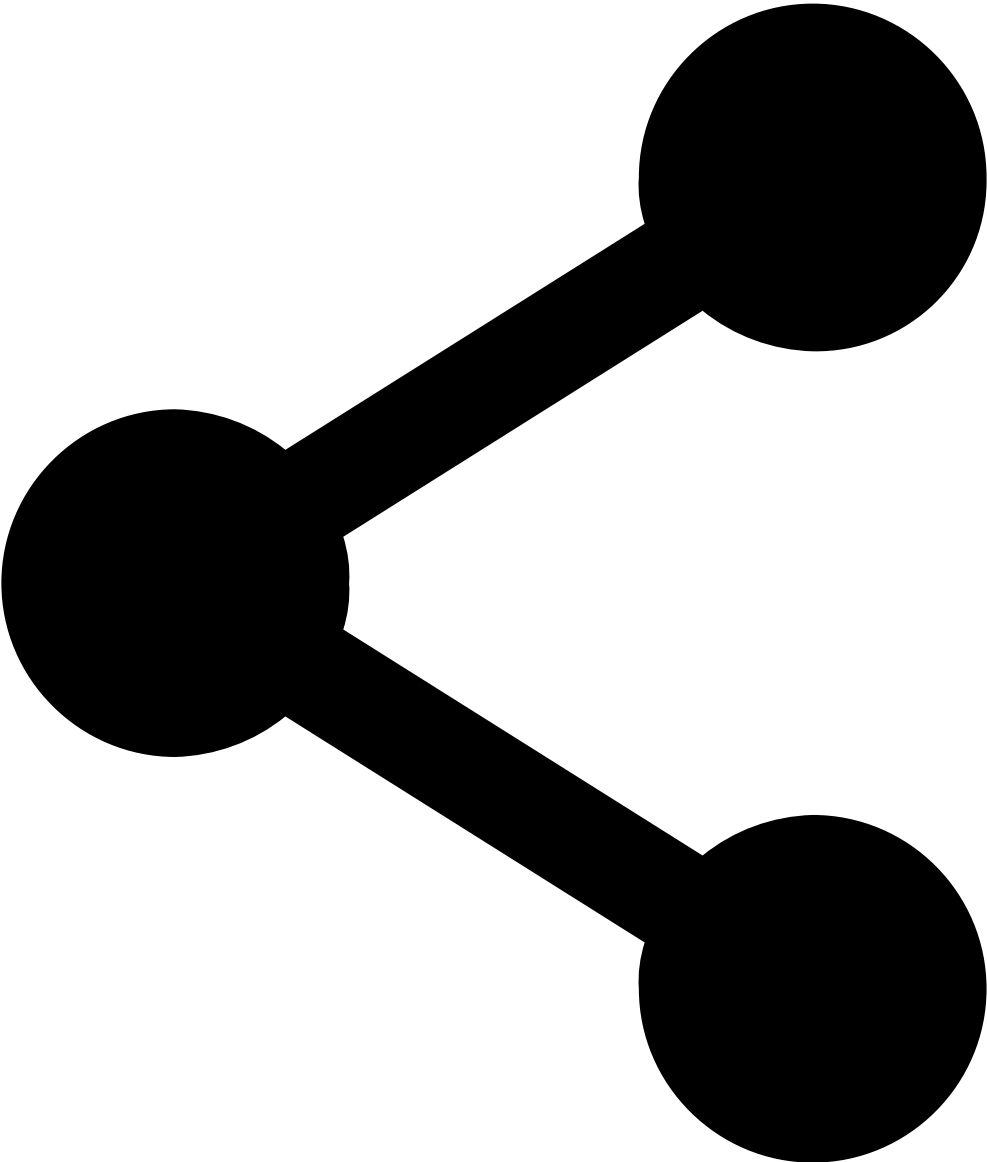


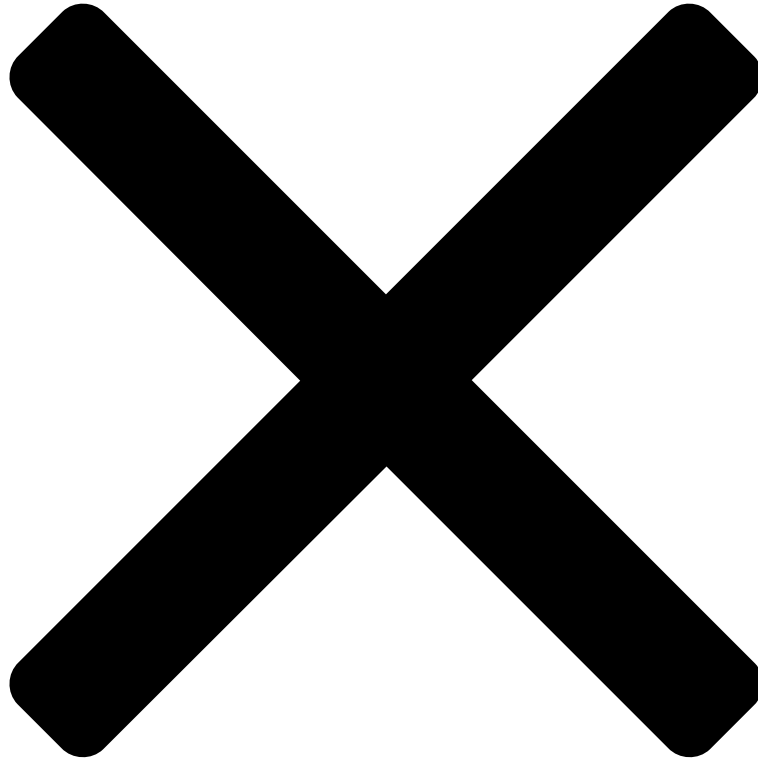
State pension: Britons demand Rishi Sunak keeps Triple Lock - '8% is a drop in the ocean!'

THE STATE PENSION Triple Lock should remain in place regardless of the increase, an Express.co.uk poll has said, with Britons warning the Government about the action.

By [Rebekah Evans](#) PUBLISHED: 13:54, Wed, Jun 23, 2021 | UPDATED: 14:43, Wed, Jun 23, 2021

Rishi Sunak grilled by Neil on state pension increases





<https://www.express.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/145356>

The [State Pension](#) Triple Lock Mechanism means the basic and new state pension increases each year by the highest of: average earnings growth, inflation or 2.5 percent. However, due to the pandemic, there are concerns about whether data could be warped and thus drastically impact the

mechanism. As more people get back into employment, average wages are significantly rising, as a factor which could impact the state pension.

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Average wages are currently rising at a rate of approximately six percent, but economists estimate an increase of eight percent in the coming months.

With this potential option on the table, it has been widely speculated as to the future of the Triple Lock policy.

[update](#)

Bearing this in mind, an [Express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk) poll asked readers whether the mechanism should be broken if pensions were to rise by eight percent.

Out of the 6,825 responses to the poll, a staggering 87 percent said the triple lock should not be broken under this circumstance.

However, not all shared this opinion with some 12 percent of individuals stating the triple lock should be broken if the percentage were to rise substantially.

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State pension: Britons demand Rishi Sunak keeps Triple Lock - '8% is a drop in the ocean!' (Image: Getty)

Some were unsure, with one percent of respondents stating they did not know.

The poll also posed that if an eight percent rise in the state pension was considered too high, what would be the maximum acceptable rise.

A total of 5,268 people responded to this element of the poll, and opinions were split on the matter.

While 3,053 people said seven percent was the maximum acceptable rise, five percent was the next most popular option for 671 of those asked.

The vote share was fairly even between the six percent, three percent and four percent options - all expressed by roughly 200 people.

But a large number of people - 634 to be exact - stated they weren't sure about what the maximum acceptable rise should be.

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Many [Express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk) readers were quick to defend the potential for an eight percent rise to the state pension in the coming tax year.

A number of people cited that a promise had already been made through the Triple Lock Mechanism, and it was now the responsibility of the Government to ensure this was being achieved.

While others said it was the hard work of older generations which meant an entitlement to a state pension increase should be honoured.

One person wrote: "The UK has one of the lowest pensions in the world, and also discriminates against pensioners who want to live outside the UK.

"Eight percent is a drop in the ocean after all their contributions. They should receive a living income. It is a right, not a benefit."

Another person fumed: "No way must the triple lock be changed or altered! The older generation have worked hard and suffered for our very small pensions now!



EXPRESS FINANCE

What is State Pension?

- **You can claim the basic State Pension if you're:**
 - **A man born before April 6, 1951**
 - **A woman born before April 6, 1953**
- If you were born later, you'll need to claim the new State Pension.
- **The most you can get on the basic State Pension is £137.60 per week.**
- The full new State Pension is £179.60 per week.

State Pension UK: What is State Pension? (Image: EXPRESS)

"Do not change or take away our pensions Boris, or we **READ MORE**
the pensioners will tear down your blue wall!"

While a third said: "No, the triple lock should not be removed. Pensioners get precious little as it stands.

"After a lifetime of work and paying their dues, they deserve the dignity of being able to pay their bills with a bit left over for a luxury here and there, instead of struggling and living close or below the poverty line."



- [State pension: Warning as 'low' sum leaves millions at risk](#)

However, this was not a view which was expressed by all Britons asked, with some [Express.co.uk](#) readers disagreeing with a potential rise of eight percent, for a number of reasons.

One person suggested they would be prepared for a lower state pension increase if funds were rerouted elsewhere.

They wrote: "Make it a five percent rise, and then give the extra three percent to the front line NHS staff. They have earned it!"

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While another reader suggested a high rise might be unaffordable, writing: "The pension should just keep up with inflation. I would set it at inflation plus one percent. At the moment we cannot afford much more."

A third individual cited the strains of the pandemic as a reason an eight percent increase would not be feasible, stating: "Under the current unusual circumstances, it would be wrong to increase the state pension in excess of five percent. I would accept a one-off cap."

But a final reader slammed those who look towards the state pension as a primary source of income.

They said: "Any pensioners who rely entirely on their state pensions haven't planned for their retirement."

"Pensioners are always moaning and trying to get everything discounted, yet they are the ones with all the money - mortgage paid off, free transport etc."

"We're pensioners who have planned and saved for our retirement. Neither

of us have been out of work, have always paid a full stamp and never claimed a penny in benefits."

The Government has refuted the idea the Triple Lock may be up for change in the coming months.

However, in an interview with GB News presenter Andrew Neill, the Chancellor Rishi Sunak said the matter would not be confirmed until the autumn statement.