

'It just doesn't make sense' - Pensioner, 95, misses out on £80,000 in state pension sum

STATE PENSION payments will be an important part of a person's income during retirement, however not everyone will be able to receive the annual increases which come with the UK state pension.

[Jess Sheldon](#) PUBLISHED: 04:01, Sun, Jul 4, 2021

Veteran Vic Williams calls for end frozen state pensions in 2013

Currently, the UK [state pension](#) rises annually under the triple lock mechanism. This means it increases each year by whichever is the highest out of 2.5 percent, the average percentage growth in wages (in Great Britain), and the percentage growth in prices in the UK as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

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For those with a protected payment, it increases each year in line with the CPI.



However, some people will not get the annual rise, because of where they live - an issue known as frozen pensions.

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The state pension only increases each year if a person lives in:

- The European Economic Area (EEA)
- Gibraltar
- Switzerland
- Countries that have a social security agreement with the UK (but one

cannot get increases in Canada or New Zealand).

Those who live outside of these countries won't get the yearly increases.

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State pension frozen overseas: The campaigners said a man, 95, (not pictured) continued to get £46 (Image: GETTY)

If they return to live in the UK then the pension will go up to the current rate, the Government website explains.

A research briefing on frozen overseas pensions, which is available in the House of Commons Library, states in May 2020, there were 492,176 people overseas who are in receipt of a frozen UK state pension.

This means their pension remains payable at the same rate as when they first became entitled to it, or if they were already pensioners again, the date they left the UK.

Ian Andexser, Chairman of the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (CABP) and Nigel Nelson, the previous chair of The International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP), are among those campaigning against the policy.

Both [campaigners live in Canada, and recently, they spoke to Express.co.uk about the matter.](#)

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The impact of the policy will affect each person in an individual way, but what experiences have the two campaigners heard about?

For some, the financial impact means life is a struggle, while others argue "it's the principle" of some being unable to get the uprated pension.

"From my personal viewpoint, I think the the result of a frozen pension financially is irrelevant," Mr Andexser tells Express.co.uk.

"It's not irrelevant to people that need the money.

"But it's the principle of the thing.

"And yes, there are people in all countries around the world that are struggling."

Retirement Living Standards

UK

	One person	Per Couple
COMFORTABLE	£33,000	£47,500
MODERATE	£20,200	£29,100
MINIMUM	£10,200	£15,700

LONDON/SOUTH EAST

	One person	Per Couple
COMFORTABLE	£36,300	£49,300
MODERATE	£24,100	£33,300
MINIMUM	£12,400	£19,800

Published in a report by Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA) and Loughborough University

Retirement Living Standards were published by the PLSA to help people picture lifestyle costs (Image: GETTY)

For others, inflation means the inability to receive the uprated pension has made getting by a huge challenge.

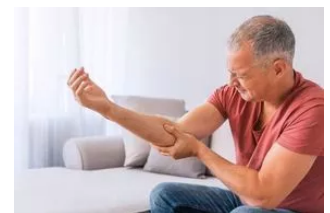
"There's a 95 year old gentleman in Vancouver, who worked all his life in the UK," Mr Andexser explains.

"And at age 65, having paid 44 years of contributions, he decided to emigrate to Vancouver to be with his daughter and his grandchildren.

"And that was 30 years ago, and 30 years ago, I think he was receiving around £46 per week.

"He still to this day gets £46 per week."

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Mr Andexser adds: "I think Nigel has calculated that over 30 years, he has had a loss to his pension of around about £80,000, or like \$130,000.

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"And it just doesn't make sense because he lives 600 yards away from an imaginary line with the USA.

"And a similar individual who lives 600 yards away across the border would have been receiving his full and rightful pension, which I think would now be getting £139 a week.

"It just doesn't make any sense.

"Why should pension be affected by where you live? This is a global world now.

"The travel around the world is vastly different than when it when this policy was introduced back in the post Second World War era."

A DWP spokesperson said: "We understand that people move abroad for many reasons and that this can impact on their finances. There is information on GOV.UK about what the effect of going abroad will be on entitlement to the UK state pension.

"The Government's policy on the up-rating of the UK state pension for recipients living overseas is a longstanding one of more than 70 years and we continue to uprate state pensions overseas where there is a legal requirement to do so."