

# State pension fury: Triple lock 'rights a longstanding wrong' before suspension

THE STATE PENSION triple lock "rights a longstanding wrong", the Government was told after it emerged that the measure would be suspended this year

## Prince William and Kate: 'Fears' for children's roles says expert

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has come under pressure over his decision to ditch the state pension triple lock as the House of Lords pushes for a reversal of the decision. On Thursday, peers backed a return of the triple lock by 280 votes to 178, a large majority of 102. If this were to succeed, state pensions could see an 8.3 percent rise in line with average earnings. As things stand, it will rise by 3.1 percent – in line with inflation – but many fear prices and bills will rise, meaning this figure won't cover costs.

## Related articles



[Looming lost pension problems risk undermining retirement planning](#)



### [Pension warning as companies trick Britons through greenwashing](#)

The Government has said the measure will only last for one year, but former Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell claimed recently that removing the triple lock risks fuel poverty for those reliant on the state pension.

He argued that pensioners have been “ripped off for four decades” after Margaret Thatcher’s reforms.

According to data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the UK has the lowest state pension in the developed world as a percentage of average earnings.

While the UK dishes out 29 percent of average earnings, the Netherlands pays 100.6 percent, Portugal offers 94 percent and Italy 93.2 percent.

Mr McDonnell told the i newspaper in September: “If Rishi Sunak presses ahead with scrapping the triple lock this year it would be a betrayal of UK pensioners.

“UK pensioners have been ripped off for four decades since Margaret Thatcher cut the earnings link.



State pension news: Johnson ditched the triple lock (Image: getty)



State pension news: McDonnell fumed at the decision (Image: getty)

“The triple lock had cross-party support because it began to right this longstanding wrong.

“To scrap it now would be a betrayal of pensioners and risks more pensioners falling into fuel poverty this winter.”

Other figures from the Labour Party have made similar statements

Labour's Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, said an 8.3 percent increase would have been unfair, but savers have also been hard done by with the scrapping of the triple lock.

He said: "The Government made a promise to the British people that they would keep the pensions triple lock.

"I am grateful that peers voted to keep an accurate link with earnings.

**READ MORE:** [Rishi Sunak: Pension triple lock axe was 'fair thing to do'](#)

## Related articles



[State pension warning as retirees set to be worse off next year](#)



[State pension update as DWP admits 134,000 women underpaid](#)



State pension news: Pension savers could be hit with inflation (Image: getty)

“An 8 percent rise as a result of a statistical quirk would not be fair but Labour will not allow the Government to use the pandemic as a smoke screen to break with the triple lock for good. Everyone deserves safety and security when they retire.”

A Government spokesperson said: “This bill represents a one-year response to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic and ensures fairness for both pensioners and taxpayers.

“We will reintroduce the earnings element of the triple lock from next year.”

Former pensions minister, Steve Webb, told Express.co.uk last month that he believes the Government will honour this pledge and reintroduce the triple lock.

“We will reintroduce the earnings element of the Triple Lock from next year.

“Firstly, because they didn't actually have to say they would. They could have just said 'this is what we are doing for next April, and then we will have a review.'



**DON'T MISS**

[Pensioners warned not to “hold their breath” on triple lock \[INSIGHT\]](#)

[State pension fury as pensioners demand MPs restore Triple Lock \[ANALYSIS\]](#)

[What Bank of England interest rates update means for YOUR pension \[INSIGHT\]](#)



State pension news: Inflation could reach five percent (Image: getty)



State pension news: Best places to retire (Image: getty)

## Related articles



## Looming lost pension problems risk undermining retirement planning



### Pension warning as companies trick Britons through greenwashing

"But they were much firmer than I expected, they quite clearly said we will reinstate it.

"Secondly, it's not like it will be after an election when we get to find out whether they keep this promise. We will get to see before we vote again."

With a 3.1 percent boost now confirmed, the basic state pension will rise by £4.25, from £137.60 per week to £141.85 per week, with the full new state pension growing by £5.55, from £179.60 per week to £185.15 per week.

Had the triple lock been maintained, the basic state pension would have jumped to £149 per week and the full new state pension to £194.50 per week.

Savers have been dealt another blow in recent months however, as many complain of delayed payments.

Most delayed pensions to people who have just turned 66 are now being paid, following a catch-up exercise by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

But applications have yet to be processed for 4,900 people from whom the DWP has asked for extra details.

The pandemic and staffing issues were blamed for problems over the



summer.

Pensions minister Guy Opperman told MPs earlier this year that hundreds of department staff were being redeployed to deal with the backlog in state pension payments.

A DWP spokesperson said this week: "We are sorry that some new customers have faced delays receiving their state pension.

"We have now issued all outstanding payments and are in contact with those customers where more information is required in order to complete processing."