

'Message IS getting through' Hope for pensioners amid state pension triple lock suspension

PENSIONERS are hopeful that the Government will make a U-turn on its planned suspension of the state pension triple lock.

By [Mark Oldacres](#) 04:00, Sat, Nov 13, 2021 | UPDATED: 08:27, Sat, Nov 13, 2021

Pensions triple lock scrapped for millions of Brits

The triple lock is currently set to be temporarily scrapped for next year, meaning the rate of increase to the state pension will be less than what it could have been under the mechanism. The decision on the one-year suspension has been met with resistance in recent weeks.

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Politicians such as Baroness Ros Altmann have called for the triple lock to be kept in place, including an amendment to take account of the financial impact of the pandemic, setting the increase at around five percent.

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A vote to this effect was backed in the House of Lords by 220 votes to 178, essentially telling ministers to rethink their decision on the triple lock.

Speaking exclusively to Express.co.uk, Dennis Reed, Director of Silver Voices said he has been pleased to see some opposition to the triple lock suspension, and hopes this will continue.

He said: "Our members are furiously lobbying their MPs to ask them to vote in favour of restoring the triple lock. It's an uphill struggle, because the Government has got a big majority, but the message is getting through, we think.

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Pensioners are hopeful the Government will change their decision on the triple lock (Image: GETTY)

“I think they will find that there is far more opposition than they had when the initial legislation was put down.

“The first proposal on the suspension of the triple lock was rushed through the House of Commons a few days after they all returned after their summer break. Hardly anybody had a chance to digest what was happening.

“The Labour Party, to their shame, abstained on the vote to suspend the triple lock when they should have been opposing it as a good opposition. But there was a change in the House of Lords because the Labour front bench in the House of Lords supported the amendments. So the Labour Party is changing its position.”

Mr Reed is concerned that if the Government is not challenged sufficiently on the triple lock issue now, there could be more permanent changes to come in the future.

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He said: “The triple lock shouldn't be dispensed with so lightly as it has been, and we expect there to be at least some opposition in the House of Commons to the Government's line on this.

“We’re concerned the Government will make an attempt to overturn the Lord's amendment without a vote. It will basically say to the speaker: ‘This is part of our Budget plans, so we want this vote ruled out’.

“So we're also asking our local MPs to try and make sure that they force a vote on the House of Lords amendment, otherwise, it will be another anti-democratic move by the Government if they seek to overturn the Lord's amendment without a vote.

“We hope that the opposition parties will take a stronger line to hold the Government to account on this and that they won't get an easy ride.”

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.



What is state pension? (Image: Express)

Despite the Government stating that the suspension will only be for one year, with the triple lock set to be reinstated for the 2023/24 tax year, Mr Reed believes the need is still there to keep the pressure on.

He said: “The stronger the fight we put up now over the suspension, the more likely we are to get the triple lock restored.

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“If everybody just crawls away under a stone, then the Government will be

encouraged to think, 'Well, we got away with it this time, we'll do it permanently now.'"

The triple lock ensures the state pension increases by the higher of inflation, average earnings growth or 2.5 percent each year. But due to an unusually high earnings growth figure as a result of factors relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government announced the triple lock would be suspended for the 2022/23 tax year.

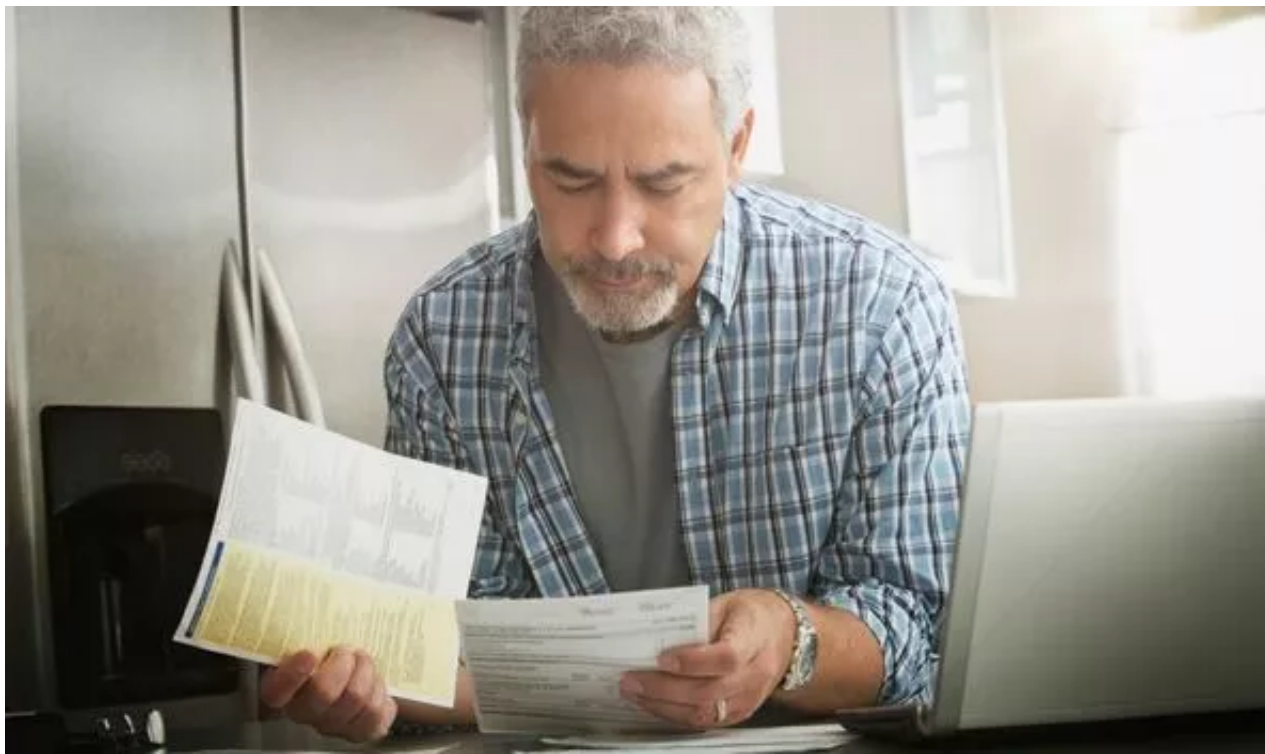
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The state pension is currently set to increase by 3.1 percent next year (Image: GETTY)

This means the state pension is set to increase by 3.1 percent next year, which was the rate of inflation for the year to September 2021.

A five percent increase to the state pension would still be significantly lower than the 8.3 percent which once appeared to be on the table, but would represent a welcome boost compared to the 3.1 percent increase which is currently set to go ahead.

Mr Reed said: “We’re still arguing for the full 8.3 percent, we owe it to our members to do so. But if a different earnings figure was used, which led to an increase state pension next year, of course we would welcome that.

“There would be two reasons for that. One was the actual amount of money involved; you'd be nearly doubling what the Government is proposing next year. There will be some recognition that the inflation figure in September was artificially low, and in fact, surging energy and food prices need a higher increase next year.

“But also, it would actually be restoring the earnings part of the triple lock

formula. So even though we might quibble over the exact amount, the fact is, we still have the formula there for good. So we would welcome that.”