

'Not possible to live!' Campaigners call on Tories to reinstate state pension triple lock

CAMPAIGNERS are calling on the Government to reinstate the state pension triple lock or introduce an alternative benefit worth £10 a week to help cash strapped pensioners.

By [Jackie Annett](#) 17:09, Tue, Nov 23, 2021 | UPDATED: 18:49, Tue, Nov 23, 2021

Pensions triple lock scrapped for millions of Brits

The suspension of the [state pension](#) triple lock for one year has left millions of British pensioners worried about how they are going to make ends meet as living costs continue to batter their pockets. Now campaigners are calling on the Government to reinstate it or replace it with a similar measure as millions of pensioners are left struggling to survive.

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In normal years the state pension rises in line with one of three factors: inflation, wage increases or 2.5 percent, whichever is highest.

However, this year the triple lock has been suspended due to extraordinary circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

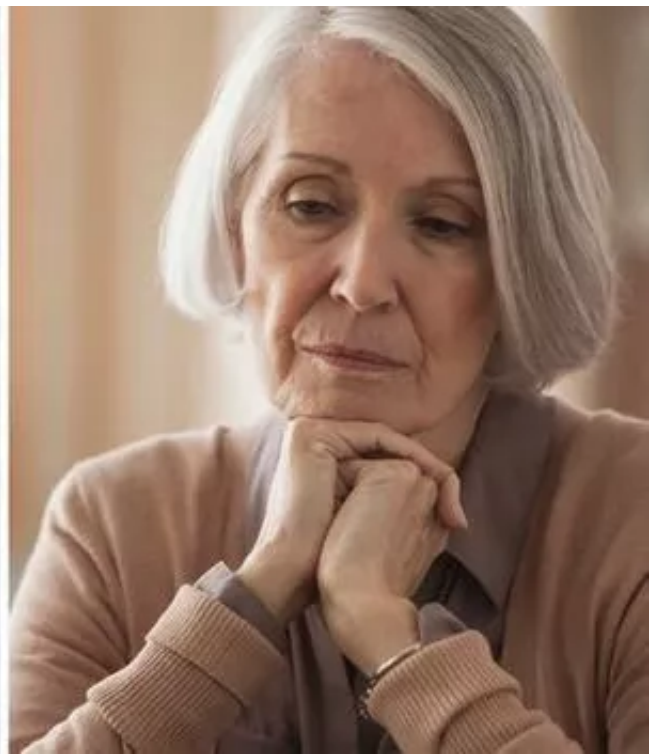
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This is despite the fact that the amendment was rejected by the House of Lords who deemed it unfair to

the elderly in society.

It's left pensioners struggling to live off £10 a week less while the cost of the food, petrol and energy all continue to rise at the same time.

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Millions more pensioners will struggle without the triple lock (Image: Getty/Express)

Now campaigners are calling on the Government to either backtrack or introduce another benefit as millions of older people will be plunged into poverty this winter.

The director of political campaigning group Silver Voices has slammed the move.

He says pensioners who are already feeling the pinch will be forced to live off £10 a week less.

Speaking exclusively to [Express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk), Mr Reed said: “We want the Government to reflect on the triple lock and reflect on the issue of broken promises which could badly impact their votes in the next election.”

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Mr Reed added that journalists had tried to live off the measly state pension amount and failed.

“British pensioners are being forced to live off £10 a week less because the triple lock has been suspended for this year.

“We would urge the government to come up with a similar solution if they are not going to restore it.

“If they’re not planning on reinstating it, then they need to come up with something else to replace it.”



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Silver Voices has written to their 5000 members letting them know how their local MP voted on the triple lock.

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It's encouraging its members to write to their MP if they have any concerns.

Pensioners who reached state pension age before 2016 are given £137 a week to live off if they have paid enough National Insurance contributions, while those who draw their pension after 2016 should get £179.60.



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With inflation rising to 4.2 percent this has resulted in a 1.1 percent cut in living standards for the older generation.

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Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK, supported the calls. She said: "We unreservedly support the continuation of the triple lock for the simple reason that it sustains and, in some years, increases the value of the State Pension.

"This is important because the State Pension is still the main source of income for the majority of older people yet, at less than £9,000 a year, it barely covers living costs and leaves around one in four pensioners reliant on means-tested

benefits to top it up.

“With inflation soaring, Ministers can no longer ignore the deteriorating financial situation of so many older people on low fixed incomes. They must urgently bring forward a package of support so the poorest and most vulnerable pensioners aren’t forced to choose between heating and eating this winter.”

A spokesperson for the Department for Work and Pensions ([DWP](#)) said: “The UK basic state pension is now over £2,050 a year higher in cash terms than a decade ago and is supported by further support for older people, which includes Pension Credit and help with fuel bills over the colder months.

“In addition, vulnerable households across the country are able to access a £500m support fund to help them with essentials over the coming months.”