

State pension fury as Johnson 'callously pushing hundreds of thousands into poverty'

STATE PENSION claimants have been left furious after payments have been delayed, and John Duffy of the International Consortium of British Pensioners (ICBP) accused the Government of "callously pushing hundreds of thousands into poverty".

By [Charlie Bradley](#) 08:23, Tue, Nov 30, 2021 | UPDATED: 17:58, Tue, Nov 30, 2021

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The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed that the state pension will rise by 3.1 percent after an annual review. When the triple lock was active, many recipients were anticipating a rise of 8.3 percent as average earnings following the peak of the pandemic soared. However, the Government deemed this to be unfair, and therefore suspended the triple lock. This means the state pension will now rise in line with September's inflation figure.

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While the triple lock has been at the heart of recent controversy, the Government is also grappling with anger from campaigners after it froze the state pension for those retired in Commonwealth countries.

As a result, nearly 500,000 British retirees have been denied their full state pension, as reported by the Telegraph earlier this month.

Pensioners in Britain and certain countries, including all EU nations, receive annual increases to their state pension.

However, those in countries such as Australia, Canada and South Africa never received an increase.

Half of those in these countries receive a state pension of £65 a week or less, just 36 percent of the full state pension in Britain, which is £179,60 a week.

John Duffy of the ICBP urged the Government to end the freeze on state

pensions.



State pension news: Savers in the Commonwealth were left furious (Image: getty)



State pension news: The DWP in London (Image: getty)

He said: "Our Government is callously pushing hundreds and thousands of British pensioners into poverty every year.

“No pensioner should be forced to work in the last years of his or her life, all because our Government has neglected its own citizens and failed to uphold their part of the bargain.

“They have each paid into the system and are entitled to the full payments they deserve – anything less is unconscionable.”

Sir Roger Gale, a Conservative MP and chair of the all-party parliamentary group on frozen British pensions, said the policy was a “scandal and national shame”.

He said: “We must never forget that behind discussions about ‘legal requirements and long-standing policies’ are real people, people who feel abandoned by their own country and face the real-life consequences of this cruel policy.”

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State pension news: Savers saw their state pension freeze (Image: getty)

Earlier this month, many Britons still living in the UK were also left angry after their state pension payments were delayed.

The DWP said earlier this month that it has no intention to provide blanket compensation to pensioners who suffered from the delays.

Pensions minister Guy Opperman said he was optimistic this issue would not arise again.

He said: “[The delay] has been caused by a number of different factors, which

individually would have been successfully managed by the organisation, but collectively, and with the added difficulties presented by the pandemic, created the delays that some customers have experienced.

“For example, we saw an unanticipated change in customer behaviour caused specifically by the economic conditions created by the pandemic.

“Customers who were deferring their State Pension as they continued to work began to claim in greater numbers, potentially due to a loss of job or through a personal choice to stop working earlier than expected.

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“This change in behaviour was one factor in a higher-than-expected number of State Pension claims being received.”

While it has been a difficult year for those receiving a state pension, recipients will benefit from some boosts in 2022.

As well as the 3.1 percent increase, pension credits will also rise.

Pension credits are a benefit for those in retirement which can boost income and give access to extra perks like a free TV licence.

Pension credit can boost your income by up to £177.10 a week if you're single and by £270.30 for couples.

The payment is also expected to increase at the same rate as inflation, to £182.59 and £278.68 respectively.

However, the exact amounts are still to be confirmed by the Government.