

'Deserved!' State pensioners call for 'at least' £200 per week for all retirees

STATE PENSIONERS have called for a radical change to the payment system, in efforts to secure at least £200 per week for all retirees.

By [Rebekah Evans](#) 08:06, Tue, Aug 2, 2022 | UPDATED: 14:28, Tue, Aug 2, 2022

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State pension payments currently vary according to the National Insurance contributions a person makes throughout their lifetime. However, the full new state pension is worth £185.15 per week, while the basic state pension is set at £141.85 weekly.

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Some may get less than the new full state pension if they were contracted out before April 6, 2016.

According to a new petition published by Silver Voices Director Dennis Reed, however, this system should be modified.

The petition published on the official Parliament website has called for a Minimum Pension Guarantee of at least £200 per week for pensioners.

It reads: "An MPG of at least £200 per week to be set for all state pensioners.

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state pension minimum guarantee

State pensioners call for 'at least' £200 per week for all retirees as a guarantee (Image: Getty)

“Irrespective of gender, marital status or contribution record, to remove anomalies in the pension system, including the growing discrepancy between the old and new state pensions.

“Any higher pensions should not be affected.”

The petition cites research from over 60s web-based platform Silver Voices, which looked into the state pension.

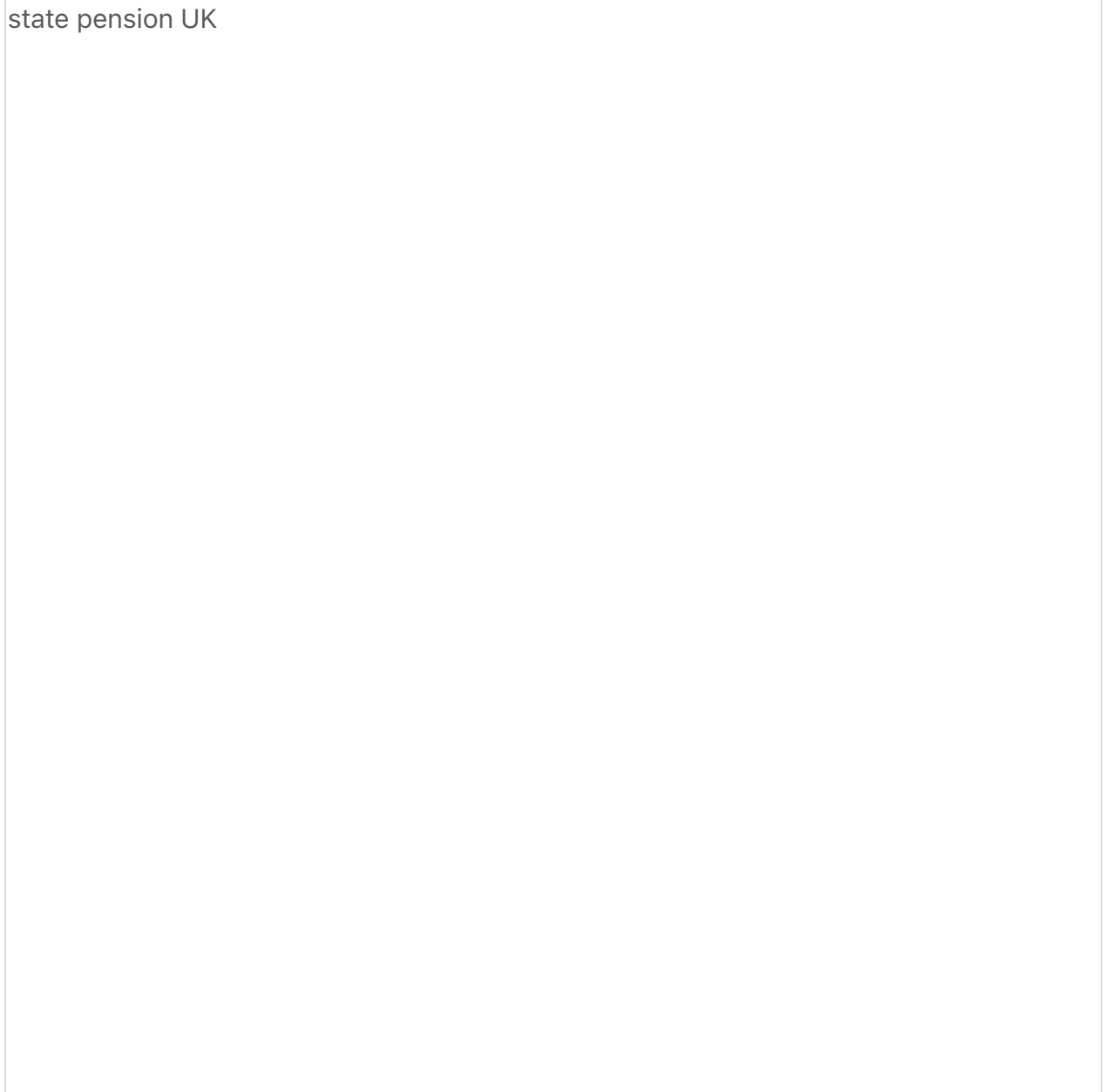
The research states that in September 2020, only six percent of pensioners received the full £185 rate of the new state pension.

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Conversely, it explained, 87 percent received a basic state pension of £142 per week or less.

The petition expresses frustration with these figures, calling for action to be taken to provide more financial support to older people.

It continues: “The UK provides the worst state pension in the developed world.

“It is insufficient for life’s essentials, particularly with surging energy and food prices.

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“After a lifetime of tax and national insurance contributions, older people deserve a minimum income of £200 per week without recourse to the benefits system.”

At the time of writing, the petition has garnered 4,280 signatures, which means it currently falls short of the 10,000 needed to trigger an official Government response.

However, the petition is gaining traction and has up until the deadline of January 2023 to get the signatures required to meet this threshold.

For the new state pension, Britons will usually need at least 10 qualifying years on their NI record to get any amount at all.

Some 35 qualifying years are usually required to get the full new state pension. For the basic state pension, 30 qualifying years are needed for the full sum.

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Anyone who falls short of the contributions required for the full amount will receive a proportion of the state pension instead.

The state pension sum people receive, however, should increase every year.

The sum increases by whichever is the highest of: earnings, prices or 2.5 percent.

This year, the state pension increased by 3.1 percent in line with prices - the consumer prices index measure.

While average earnings growth was higher, these figures were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result they were not taken into account.

A Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) spokesperson told Express.co.uk: "The Government is committed to ensuring that pensioners are able to live with the dignity and respect they deserve, and the state pension is the foundation of state support for older people.

"The full yearly amount of the basic state pension is now over £2,300 higher than in 2010 and there were 400,000 fewer pensioners in absolute poverty

after housing costs in 2020/21 than in 2009/10.”