

State pensioners protest 'cruel' policy which means 500,000 will miss out on 10.1% boost

Outraged pensioners have called upon the Government to end an "archaic" policy which sees them lose out every year.

By [Rebekah Evans](#) 07:45, Wed, Nov 23, 2022 | UPDATED: 13:35, Wed, Nov 23, 2022

Expat calls for end to frozen pensions

Millions of pensioners were delighted with the news the state pension will increase by 10.1 percent next year. The return of the triple lock should protect incomes in real terms as inflation continues to run high.

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However, not everyone is set to benefit from the latest update, as state pension increases are only available in the following places:

- The UK
- European Economic Area (EEA)
- Switzerland
- Gibraltar
- Countries with a social security agreement with the UK (but not Canada or New Zealand).

Britons who do not live in these countries will not secure a state pension increase, and see their sum frozen at the point at which they left the country.

In a renewed call for support for their cause, a delegation of the so-called “frozen state pensioners” protested outside the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) headquarters in central London.

The group held a large banner, emblazoned with the words “UK Gov Steals My Pension”.

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Pensioners protest 'cruel' policy which means 500,000 will miss out on 10.1% state pension boost (Image: ICBP•End Frozen Pensions)

It featured pictures of affected expats living in a variety of countries overseas, including Commonwealth nations.

The protesters had travelled from Canada, Australia and the Caribbean - all affected by the frozen pension policy.

The policy has been a long-standing one across multiple governments, but pensioners are calling for it to be brought to an end.

John Duffy, chair of the International Consortium of British Pensioners, said: "We are standing outside of the Department for Work and Pensions to call on the UK Government to end its archaic frozen pensions policy.

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State pension: The pensioners delivered letters to the DWP (Image: ICBP•End Frozen Pensions)

“Last week, the Government committed to upholding the pensions triple lock and uprating state pensions for those who, as they recognise, built the country we live in.

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“We stand here today on behalf of the half a million British pensioners who will not receive this increase, and instead continue to have their pension payments frozen.

“We are not asking for special treatment, just to be treated the same as British pensioners residing in countries such as the US, France and Jamaica.

“It is time for the UK Government to treat all its pensioners fairly and assign this injustice to the history books.”

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The End Frozen Pensions campaign estimates some 520,000 pensioners living overseas are impacted by the policy.

Sheila Telford, director of the International Consortium of British Pensioners, added: "We are delivering our representations to the Department for Work and Pensions on behalf of frozen pensioners around the world.

"These letters highlight the financial and mental hardship caused by this cruel postcode lottery.

“British pensioners are losing thousands of pounds every year and as inflation rises the policy will cause further suffering.

“We hope the Department for Work and Pensions will read these letters and work with affected countries to resolve this issue for good.”

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Yesterday, the End Frozen Pensions campaign also held a Parliamentary drop-in session.

It asked MPs to attend and put their name towards supporting the calls to end frozen pensions.

A number of MPs across parties including Esther McVey, Marco Longhi, Sir Peter Bottomley, Emma Lewell-Buck, Marion Fellows, Rupa Huq and Kim Johnson expressed their support.

A DWP spokesperson previously told [Express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk): “This year we will spend over £110billion on the state pension and our priority is ensuring every pensioner receives all the financial support to which they are entitled.

“We understand that people move abroad for many reasons and we provide clear information about how this can impact on their finances.

“The Government’s policy on the uprating of the UK state pension for recipients living overseas is a longstanding one of more than 70 years and we continue to uprate state pensions overseas where there is a legal requirement to do so.”