

# Triple lock will be protected by Tories in next election

Mel Stride, the Pensions Secretary, says the Conservatives have a 'particular duty' to shield the elderly with the policy

[By Nick Gutteridge](#), Political Correspondent 28 June 2023 • 12:52pm



Mel Stride says the triple lock will 'almost certainly' be in the party's manifesto Credit: Anadolu Agency

The Conservatives will fight the next general election on a pledge to [keep the triple lock](#), the Pensions Secretary has vowed.

Mel Stride said the policy will "almost certainly" be in the party's manifesto and that it has a "particular duty" to shield the elderly.

His remarks will be seen as a major pitch to shore up support among the

over-65s as the Tories face an [uphill battle to stay in power](#).

But the commitment will also severely restrict Rishi Sunak's room for manoeuvre and further add to Britain's ballooning welfare bill.

The triple lock guarantees that the state pension payment goes up every year by whichever is higher of earnings, inflation or 2.5 per cent.

## **'Particular duty to pensioners'**

Asked whether the Tories would keep it after the next election, Mr Stride told LBC: "I think we do have a particular duty to pensioners.

"They are in a position where it is less easy for them to step back into the labour market. So I do think it's particularly important that we look after them."

Pressed again, he added: "I'm confident that it will be. It's not for me to write the manifesto on air, but I think it almost certainly will be."

The triple lock was introduced by David Cameron in 2010 and has applied every year since except for in 2022, [when it was temporarily suspended](#).

Mr Sunak, then the chancellor, took the decision because the economy's emergence from lockdown led to a sharp surge in people's earnings.

Liz Truss then looked at scrapping the mechanism amid concern over Britain's ballooning £124 billion pensions bill but [ultimately decided to bring it back](#).

Its reinstatement means 12 million retirees will get a huge boost to their earnings next year, with the state pension projected to rise by seven per cent to £11,342.

Mr Sunak's spokesman has said he remains committed to the triple lock

even if stubbornly high inflation makes the policy more and more expensive.

Labour has also repeatedly pledged to keep the policy and it is expected to feature in Sir Keir Starmer's manifesto when he takes on the Tories.