



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Frozen Pensions for those Living Abroad

Thank you for contacting me about increases in the State Pension for those living abroad.

The UK State Pension is payable worldwide and is uprated abroad where there is a legal requirement to do so. Some countries, however, have no agreement with the UK for securing the social security rights of people moving between the two countries. As a result, pensioners who move to these countries still receive the State Pension but do not have their payments uprated as they would be for UK residents. The Department for Work and Pensions endeavours to make this clear to those thinking of moving abroad and publishes guidance on its website.

It has been and remains the policy of successive governments not to enter into new agreements with countries or territories if this would include up-rating pensions. This is in order to contain the long-term cost of the UK social security system. I can tell you that this issue has been examined in depth and extensively by the domestic courts and by the European Court of Human Rights culminating in a ruling in 2010. In all these cases the courts have found in favour of the Government.

I appreciate this is not what you wanted to hear, but I hope this helps explain why the situation is as it is. Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP