



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2019.

Dear Constituent,

A Response to the End Frozen Pensions Campaign

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

Members of the Government do not, by convention, sign any Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the Ministerial Code's rules on collective responsibility.

I firmly support the Social Security Benefits Up-Rating Order 2019. It maintains the commitment to the triple lock for both the Basic State Pension and the New State Pension. The Order also increases benefits for carers, guardians and those with disabilities and long-term health conditions, sharing the proceeds of economic growth with some of the most vulnerable in society.

The UK State Pension is payable worldwide and is uprated abroad where there is a legal requirement to do so. In some countries, however, there is 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 where this would include up-rating pensions in order to contain the long-term cost of the UK social security system.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alister Jack'.

The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency.