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Dear Constituent,

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

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, giving pensioners peace of mind about their financial security. 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 most overseas 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 UK residents do. The Department for Work and Pensions endeavours to make this clear to those thinking of moving abroad and publishes guidance on its website.

Although the current policy on the State Pension overseas is the long-standing and unchanged position of successive Governments, I am aware of the report which the APPG on Frozen British Pensions has produced and will make sure to read its findings and recommendations.

Under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, UK state pensioners living in the EEA or Switzerland by the 31st December 2020 will have their state pensions increased annually as long as they continue living there. State pensions will be up rated in the EU, even if claimed on or after the 1st January 2021, as long as the pensioners meet the UK state pension qualifying conditions and are in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement.

I am aware The Department for Work and Pensions recently received representations from the Canadian Government on the question of a reciprocal social security agreement covering the uprating of pensions. I will continue to speak with ministerial colleagues as this issue develops.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY