



Sheila Telford
sheilatelford@shaw.ca

Date: 20 January 2015
Fol ref: 68

Dear Sheila Telford,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 07 January 2015. You asked:

When Eastern European countries such as Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007, what happened to people living in those countries who were already receiving a UK State pension prior to that date.

1. Were their base pension amounts first increased to bring them up to the equivalent inflation adjusted level of state pensioners living in the UK and then uprated annually as in the rest of the EU?

or

2. Did they then become eligible for subsequent annual uprating only on their existing "frozen" state pension ?

Where a bilateral social security agreement had been agreed between the UK and an overseas country, this may not have changed the UK State pension payment, because not all social security agreements automatically include provision to uprate UK State pension.

As you already be aware, where a bilateral agreement does include provision for uprating, e.g in the case of Barbados, then the current level of state pension is uprated by the appropriate annual uprating mechanism, from the date that the agreement was signed.

For those EU countries where a pre accession social security agreement with the UK existed, which allowed for uprating, the UK State pension recipient would continue to receive an uprated pension.

Where no pre accession social security agreement existed, any uprate of UK State pension can only legally take place from the date of accession to the EU (or EEA) and is applied to the current amount of pension being paid at the time.

The EU coordination regs are not retrospective, so backdating of award is not possible. However there are transitional arrangements in place so for those reaching state pension age after accession, their previous contributions are taken into account/aggregated to meet de minimis conditions etc.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

T Mantell
State Pension Policy

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwpgsi.gov.uk or by writing to DWP, Central FoI Team, Caxton House, Tothill Street, SW1H 9NA. Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us or telephone 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745