



Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Women

MC21-001736

Mr Geoff Nadin



Dear Mr Nadin

Thank you for your email of 15 March 2021 regarding the UK freeze on the pension to eligible receiving Australians.

Since 2001, Australia has made repeated representations to the United Kingdom (UK) on this matter, without success. We believe that UK pensioners who have paid contributions under the same rules should be paid their UK pensions under equal conditions, no matter where they live.

Our submission to the UK's 2020 All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) inquiry into frozen British pensions argued strongly in favour of indexation of UK pensions in Australia. In its December 2020 report, the APPG recommended the British Government end the "frozen" pension policy and seek to provide UK pensioners living in "frozen" countries, including Australia, with their full uprated UK state pension as soon as possible. However, the UK Government's submission to the APPG Inquiry noted it had no plans to change its policy.

I can assure you the Australian Government will continue to raise the matter with our British counterparts on behalf of UK pensioners in Australia. As the Department of Social Services is the lead agency on pensions, I have copied this letter to the Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Marise Payne'.

MARISE PAYNE

cc. Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Minister for Families and Social Services