

Geoff Nadin

30/5/21

Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter (ref. MC21-001736) in reply to my email of 15 March this year, in which you set out the representations, recent and historical, which the Australian Government has made to the UK Parliament on behalf of British pensioners in Australia. Needless to say, I am familiar with most details of this shameful tale. It is nevertheless encouraging to have your assurance of our Government's continuing efforts to end the discriminatory British policy of 'frozen' pensions.

I recognise that it is not within your portfolio, nor that of the Minister for Families and Social Services, to participate directly in foreign trade negotiations. However, might I suggest that now, more than at any time in the past, could provide an opportunity for the Australian Government to apply leverage on UK negotiators in any ongoing trade talks? Britain, post-Brexit is not in the strong position it pretends to be. On the contrary, and especially with loyal Commonwealth countries such as Australia which suffered most from the effects of Britain's entry to the EU, one would expect more than one quid pro quo from the British as they strive to revive old trade relations. Perhaps a word to our negotiators could help right an old wrong.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Nadin