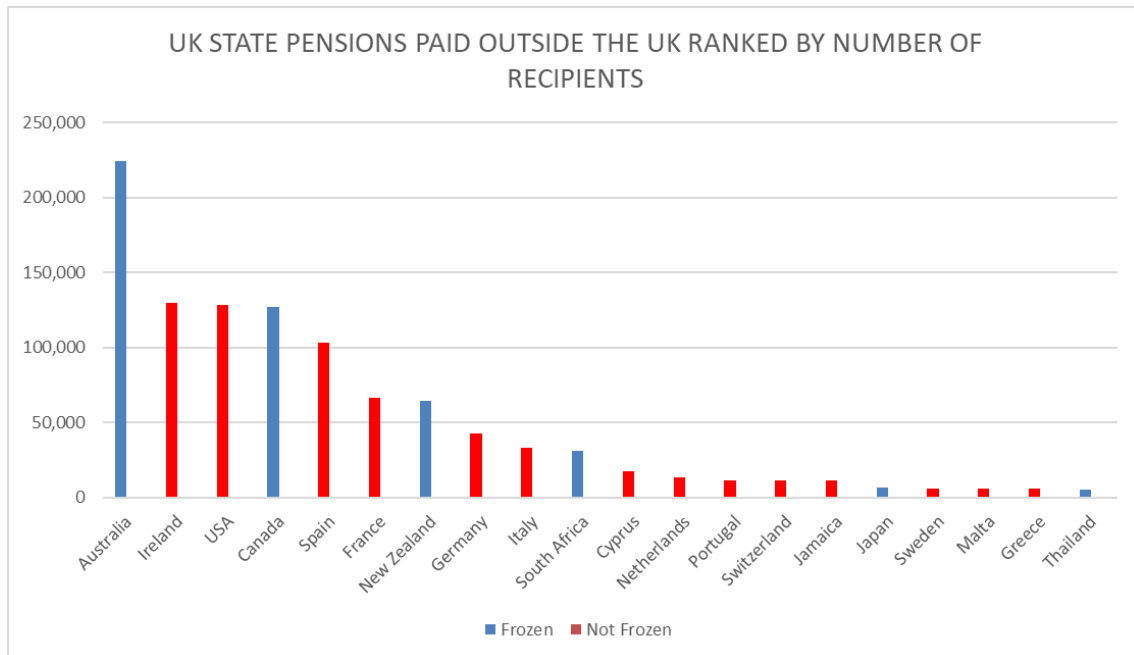


## Britain's Illogical State Pension Scheme



UK State Pensions are paid worldwide regardless of the nationality of the recipient.

**There are more UK State Pensioners living in Australia than in any other country outside the UK.**

The pension paid to Australians is frozen. Those Australians see the value of their pensions wither as inflation eats away at its spending power.

**Why do UK State Pensioners living in Australia complain?** If they are eligible for the Australian Age Pension, they could be receiving two pensions. The answer is they should complain – or the Australian Government should complain on their behalf – because they paid the same contributions to the UK Scheme as people living elsewhere, yet they are denied the same entitlement solely on the grounds they are Australians.

**Why does the Australian Government allow this iniquitous situation to continue?** We cannot answer that question.

**Why does the UK Government continue to defend such an unfair and cruel policy?** The answer is because the Australian Government is doing nothing.

Here is what Jeff Rooker, Minister of State, Department Of Social Security in a statement to the House of Commons on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2000:

*“I have already said that I am not prepared to defend the logic of the present situation. It is illogical. There is no consistent pattern. It does not matter whether a country is in the Commonwealth or outside it. We have arrangements with some Commonwealth countries and not with others. Indeed, there are differences among Caribbean countries. This is an historical issue and the situation has existed for years.”*