



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

John Duffy
Chair, International Consortium of British Pensioners
% Suite 53-55, Hope Exchange
London SE1 1TY

14th July 2022

Dear Mr. Duffy,

Thank you very much for your recent letter.

Liberal Democrats are deeply sympathetic to the plight of the thousands of pensioners worldwide who have been left without their proper state pension due to these antiquated rules. In our joined up world, it's scandalous that when people leave the UK - whether to return home or to move further afield - their state pensions are frozen.

This has been a political football for far too long. The Government must do far more to put reciprocal agreements in place, to ensure that pensioners who have lived and worked in Britain receive what they are fairly owed. This is something Liberal Democrats have been fighting for in parliament - and will continue to do so.

And the fact that the UK is currently negotiating trade agreements with a number of countries offers a unique opportunity to put in place such agreements. Liberal Democrats spokesperson for International Trade and Work and Pensions, Sarah Olney MP and Wendy Chamberlain MP, have recently written to the Secretary of State for International Trade, urging her to grasp this rare moment and make real change. We shall continue pushing for this in the House and at all further opportunities.

Whilst there were many reasons why the Liberal Democrats opposed the Elections Act as a whole, we wholeheartedly welcomes the re-enfranchisement of British and Northern Irish citizens from around the world.

I hope this helps to clarify our position. Thanks again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Davey'.

Ed Davey MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats