



The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP

Minister for Social Services

Ref: MC22-004291

Mr Patrick Edwards
President
British Pensions in Australia Inc.
PO Box 438
GORDON NSW 2072

Dear Mr Edwards

Thank you for your letter of congratulations and best wishes.

I am honoured that the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, has appointed me to the role of Minister for Social Services.

Social Services is a critical portfolio to so many in our community and is central to the Australian Government's vision to create a better future for all Australians.

Thank you also for raising the issue of non-indexation of United Kingdom (UK) pensions in Australia with me. I note you have also written to the Prime Minister and other Government Ministers on this matter. Those letters have been referred to me as the matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

I appreciate this is an important ongoing issue for UK pensioners living in Australia. I have previously advocated for UK pensioners in my electorate of Kingston and across Australia on this issue, including moving a motion in the House of Representatives in 2008.

I can assure you the Government maintains Australia's long-standing position that the UK's policy of indexing its pensions in some countries but not others, including Australia, is unfair and inequitable. All UK pensioners deserve to be paid their UK pensions under equal conditions, regardless of where they choose to live in their retirement.

While only the UK Government can change its policy, the Australian Government will continue to advocate on behalf of UK pensioners in Australia and raise the issue with the UK Government at appropriate opportunities.

Thank you again for writing. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours, sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Rishworth'.

Amanda Rishworth MP

18/7/2022