



The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP

Minister for Social Services

Ref: MC22-013030

Mr Julian Leeser MP
Member for Berowra
PO Box 743
PENNANT HILLS NSW 1715

Dear Mr Leeser

Julian

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November 2022, on behalf of the President of British Pensions in Australia, Mr Patrick Edwards, concerning the non-indexation of United Kingdom (UK) pensions in Australia.

I wrote to Mr Edwards in July 2022, confirming it remains Australia's long-standing position the UK's policy of indexing its pensions in some countries but not others, including Australia, is unfair and inequitable.

Since then, I have also written to my UK counterpart, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Rt Hon Mel Stride MP, to raise the issue on behalf of UK pensioners in Australia and to ask the UK Government to reconsider its policy.

Negotiations for new social security agreements can only commence if there is mutual interest between the two countries. A new social security agreement between Australia and the UK is not required in order for the UK Government to choose to index its pensions in Australia. To date, the UK Government has not indicated any plans to change its policy on indexation or to renegotiate, or enter into, agreements with countries affected by this policy.

While only the UK Government can resolve this issue, the Australian Government will continue to raise the issue with relevant UK Government counterparts at appropriate opportunities.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention. I trust the information provided will be of assistance to Mr Edwards.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Rishworth MP

27/1/2023