Department for Work & Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team
Caxton House
6-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

[redacted]ey freedom-of-information-
[redacted] request@dwp.gov.uk
DWP Website

Our Ref: FOI2024/11856

7 March 2024

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 12 February. You wrote:

"I am writing to politely request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):

1. How many times have the Government of Australia raised the issue of UK state pensions paid to British pensioners living in Australia in the last three years?
2. Has the Australian Government exchanged correspondence with the UK Government regarding a new reciprocal Social Security Agreement covering pensions in the last three years?
3. Has the Australian Government made a formal request for a new reciprocal Social Security Agreement covering pensions in the last three years?"

DWP Response

We confirm that we hold the information you have requested and the answers to your questions are below.

1. This issue has been raised formally by the Australian Government three times in the last three years.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.

The Government does not have a policy to increase the number of countries with which the UK has reciprocal agreements on State Pensions. The UK Government has no plans to change its social security relationship with Australia on State Pensions.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Website: ICO FOI and EIR complaints or telephone 0303 123 1113