



SOUTH AFRICAN EXPAT BRITISH PENSIONERS

Newsletter 18 April 2016

PLEASE! If you know of any UK pensioners who do not receive the newsletter ask them to join. Also anyone who is a UK national and will perhaps be entitled to claim a UK pension having worked in the UK and paid into the NI stamp.

Also any person even if they are not a UK national who has worked in the UK and may be entitled to claim a pension

The new pension came into

effect in April and as long as one has paid at least 10 years into the NI fund they are entitled to claim.

FROM A MEMBER

Dear Mr L.

Thank you for contacting Newcastle Pension Centre (International Group) with your email dated 09/04/2016 Due to the ongoing postal difficulties in South Africa, we cancelled the Life Certificate Exercise to South Africa in November 2015, therefore payments should have continued as normal. If you have any payment problems or know of any other people with payment problems after that date, please call us or get the person involved to call us on 0044 191 2187777 and we will endeavour to help. Our office opening times are 8am-6pm Monday-Friday

Yours Sincerely

David

0044 191 2187777

On the matter of renewing one's passport online, I have been asked so many times for the steps that one takes.

As yet I myself have never had to renew my passport, so if anyone can assist the other members by sending the instructions to me on the steps one takes after filling and printing out the forms.

Some members do not have or do not like using their Credit/Debit cards online, so what do they do?

Like where does one take them? Does one also have to pay a separate fee or is the courier fee that is mentioned on the Government website the only fee?

According to the Government website the cost is as follows,

Passport Fee £ 83.00 Total to pay (including courier fee) £102.86

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi0JGpyZt3U>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z5l5hV7mHc&ebc=ANyPxKq8G8M9DgEdrPit7puV3C3DdPu5JQT_L6MknJa07YsWV41kMXpcf1YCYAjM)

[Z5l5hV7mHc&ebc=ANyPxKq8G8M9DgEdrPit7puV3C3DdPu5JQT_L6MknJa07YsWV41kMXpcf1YCYAjM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z5l5hV7mHc&ebc=ANyPxKq8G8M9DgEdrPit7puV3C3DdPu5JQT_L6MknJa07YsWV41kMXpcf1YCYAjM)
[CXbZGtOWcD5ejlKiJAJv2ow9k2mhBx5ePq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Z5l5hV7mHc&ebc=ANyPxKq8G8M9DgEdrPit7puV3C3DdPu5JQT_L6MknJa07YsWV41kMXpcf1YCYAjM)

From one of our members

I would suggest that all Expat British Pensioners totally ignore the RBS and other Banks request for financial information. I personally intend, via a UK e-mail address, to address the problem by suggesting that the British Government gets its own house in order regarding the "Panama Papers" prior than trying to make life difficult for UK Expat Pensioners that they have been robbing for years. I will ensure that this information of the Bully Boys of Westminster is sent to all the relevant British Media and would ask that NOBODY provides any information whatsoever as the Account Holders have never been consulted in this matter.

It should be noted that the many British Lords, Businessmen and MPs including David Cameron, the current Prime Minister have all had their greedy noses in the "TAX FREE FEEDING BAG". The British Government appear to be almost as corrupt as the Government under which I currently reside.

Regards

Hi Norma,

Many thanks for the great newsletter. I also recently renewed my British passport on line with the help of a friend and got it back in Sabie in about 11 days – wonderful! In answer to one of your member's questions, when you are going overseas, contact the pensions office beforehand and just send them a scanned copy of your air ticket as proof of the amount of time you will be in the U.K. and you will indeed get your full pension for the time you are there. I usually send a covering letter. I've done this several times and never had a problem. Kind regards

Dear Norma

Thanks for the emails.

For claiming pension while in the UK, just ring them when you arrive on the number for International Pensions, and they take your details and within a month you will see the extra amount in your bank account. Regards

Hi Norma,

I saw someone was enquiring whether 5 weeks qualified for an increase in pension while on holiday in the UK.

I was there last year for only 10 days. I phoned the Pensions Dept. before I left, they just wanted to know the dates I would be in the UK

and the address of where I would mainly be staying.

When I returned my surprise was an increase for that month of about R500.

And yes, a letter did arrive at the address.

Easy and they are so helpful and efficient, unlike some people I could mention!

Thank you Norma for your very informative newsletters.

Regarding the query about obtaining the increased pension whilst one is in the UK this is correct.

One phones the Pension Service 0191 21 8777, quoting your reference number. They will enquire when you arrived in the UK and when you plan to leave. They will also ask whereabouts you are staying.

I have been undertaking this for the past 10 years and have received the increased pension.

It has come to my notice that some pensioners are having trouble with claiming their adjustments to their pension when visiting the UK and Europe.

PLEASE MEMBERS take note!!!!

I was told by the International Pensions Center at State Pension Telephone: 0044 191 218 7777 that if I phone them at least 2 weeks before arriving in the UK and give them your arrival date and departure date, they will also take note and adjust the payment. This call is cheaper than a postage stamp to the UK.

One can also ask them to call you back.....

Dear Norma,

Once again may I thank you for your efforts on all our behalf, and long may you continue.

I think I must have missed the newsletter about renewing passports on line, so please could you reprint the website address – I am sure others may also be interested.

Cheers and blessings.

Hi Norma Glad to hear from you again We also did our passports on line and had them back in ten days. I found out that DHL charge R350 up to a weight of 500 grams so it was cheap for the two sets of papers we sent in the one envelope! Glad you are up and running again. Thanks for the great service you are doing. Reg.

Dear. Norma. With reference to the person going to U.K, for five weeks in September, and wanting to know how to apply for increased pension for the period of her/his stay. They will need on return send the following, boarding cards for their flights, and any other receipts that are relevant to the stay in U.K. It used to be during the month of September, is a qualifying week, which entitled a U.K, citizen during that week when there for just 24hrs, and if you were staying with someone who was NOT RECEIVING the winter fuel allowance. The visitors would be entitled to the winter fuel allowance that winter. This was so up to our last visit in September 2006, things may have changed. Therefore, it would pay them to make enquires at the department of labour office, if they still call it that, as soon of possible on arrival. Or I am sure information can be had via, THE PENSION SERVICE 11. MAIL HANDLING SITE A. WOLVERHAMPTON. GREAT BRITAIN. WV98 1LW. And good luck we are still waiting for our increase in pension, for three weeks we spent last JUNE/JULY. The pension service provides a terrible service in my opinion, International Queries, have an e-mail address, when you contact them and they do reply, they tell you they cannot deal with your query, and give you the Wolverhampton address, and tell you to write.

Just click on the under mentioned link, it will take you into the UK government overseas passport renewal online.

https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports/y/south-africa/renewing_new/adult

Hello Norma, I have recently renewed my British passport but now need to have my residents permit added to it. I have written to several Home office branches but have not received a reply. Do you know how I go about adding this insert or perhaps one of our members has had the same experience.

Kind regards

PLEASE NOTE>

When one leaves the country now, you have to carry your original residence certificate with you. They will not accept a copy, and if you do not have your original certificate, the only advice I can give you is to take out South African citizenship.

Otherwise the new customs control at the SA entry points will not allow you entry into SA.

Some say just take your ID book, but I know that does not work as it is not an authorized travel document.

<http://www.intergate-immigration.com/blog/new-south-african-permanent-residency-process/>

I myself took out SA citizenship and now have a SA passport, I leave on my SA passport enter the UK on my UK passport, and vice versa when I return.

There are also a few pensioners who had 2-year visitor permits that they were renewing at intervals. These are no longer being renewed, and they are given a time limit to leave the country.

One of our members whose wife went to the UK and was stopped from re-entry as she did not have the stamp in her new passport.

She had to return to the UK, then her husband who was still in SA, had to courier the original document to the UK for her to retry and enter SA.

A very costly exercise, as she had to pay for an other airline ticket.

Hi Norma

Thank you as always for your excellent newsletter and all your work in trying to bring together the British ex-pats in South Africa – invaluable!

The letters regarding Life Certificates reminded me of the reasons why I am fighting this additional intrusion into pensioners' lives with a system that requires different groups of pensioners to do different things – and at their own cost – in order to receive the pension, they are entitled to. This is totally contrary to the United Nations Social protocol which outlaws such practices! However, it is also obnoxious in that DWP has absolutely no evidence that there is any ex-pat pensioner fraud – a Freedom of Information request has revealed that they have no statistics to show any fraud whatsoever!

My recent experience of these letter adds to the concerns I have of the whole system. I received and returned the completed Life Certificate in the allotted time and, because I mailed my Christmas cards to the UK at the same time, had a good idea that all cards – and the Life Certificate – had been received before the 8-week deadline. I then had a letter saying my pension had been stopped. I now find that it takes a week – after the letter date – for a DWP overseas letter to get into the mailing system; I had not picked up on the diversion via Holland mentioned by one of your correspondents, which delays it even further. On receipt of a completed certificate, DWP then take two days to get it into their system and allows ten days to action it. Therefore, DWP does not allow eight weeks at all – it is nearer six weeks, if that! From other correspondence with The Pension Service I have now shown that they had received my completed certificate days before they stopped my pension, but of course had not actioned it internally. So much for the “extra time” allowed to South African ex-pats! I have written to the new DWP minster about this unacceptable system imposed on top of frozen pensions but will not hold my breath that my letter will receive a positive response; they are too used to hammering ex-pat pensioners to stop now!

Best wishes

Dear Norma

One of those letters from the UK pensions authority basically checking on whether I was still alive (so tactfully phrased, are you still entitled to receive your pension!) arrived within a day or two of the date by which they should have received a written reply. Using Skype I called them and they advised that they realised the South African post was unreliable and slow and accepted my phone call as proof that they should not stop my pension.

Regards

Please remember to make sure your postal address is up to date with the International Pension Center
Also if you do receive a Life Certificate, it would be prudent to phone the International Pension Center
at **0044 191 218 7777**, they will ask you some security questions to make sure you are who you are.
They know of the problem that our postal service is slow.

TIME FOR SOME HUMOUR

Sent to me by one of our members, Enjoy!

ARE WE THE ONES WITH DEMENTIA? ARE WE THE ONES WHO ARE AGEING? REALLY?

ONE

Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets.

'We don't have half dozen nuggets,' said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied.

'We only have six, nine, or twelve,' was the reply.

'So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.'

So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets

(Unbelievable but sadly true...)

(Must have been the same one I asked for sweetener and she said they didn't have any, only Splenda and sugar.)

(And they think they are worth £8.00 per hour)

TWO

I was checking out at the local ASDA with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those dividers that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned

all of my items, she picked up the divider, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it.

Not finding the bar code, she said to me, 'Do you know how much this is?'

I said to her 'I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today.'

She said 'OK,' and I paid her for the things and left.

She had no clue to what had just happened.

(But the lady behind me had a big smirk on her face as I left)

THREE

A woman at work was seen putting a credit card into her DVD drive and pulling it out very quickly.

When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM thingy.

(Keep shuddering!!)

FOUR

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car.

'Do you need some help?' I asked.

She replied, 'I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door un-locker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery to fit this?'

Hmm, I don't know. Do you have an alarm, too?' I asked.

'No, just this remote thingy,' she answered, handing it and the car keys to me.

As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, 'Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries. It's a long walk....'

PLEASE just lay down before you hurt yourself!!!

FIVE

Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?' 'Just use paper from the photocopier', the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

A Brunette, by the way!!

SIX

A mother calls 999 very worried asking the dispatcher if she needs to take her kid to the emergency room, the kid had eaten ants.

The dispatcher tells her to give the kid some Benadryl and he should be fine, the mother says, 'I just gave him some ant killer.....'

Dispatcher: 'Rush him in to emergency right now!'

Life is tough. It's even tougher if you're stupid!!!!

Someone had to remind me, so I'm reminding you too. Don't laugh....it is all true...

Perks of reaching 60 or being over 70 and heading towards 80!

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 8 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 5 PM .
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
11. You can't remember who sent you this list.
12. And you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.

Forward this to everyone you can remember right now! And remember, Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night!

A NOTE TO EVERYONE,

**IF YOU WANT YOUR PENSION SENT TO A BANK IN THE UK,
OR IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOU'RE BANKING DETAILS THAT YOUR PENSION GOES INTO.
IF YOU MOVE TO A NEW ADDRESS OR IN FACT WANT ANY CHANGES MADE. (Remember if they have the wrong postal address and they send you a life certificate, they will stop your pension if you do not contact them).**

Do not worry if you have not received one, they do not send out to everyone, it looks as though they send it out as one gets older. I turned 70 this year and this is the first time I have received it.

PHONE THE INTERNATIONAL PENSION CENTER AT 0044 191 218 7777.

THEY DO NOT RESPOND TO EMAILS; FOLLOW UP VIA POST IF NEEDED.

GIVE THEM YOUR TELL NO AND THEY WILL PHONE YOU BACK....

This is where you will find how to contact the MP's. <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

This is where one can contact the Lords and Ladies. <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/lords/>

Or if you want then open a twitter account, as myself and others have found a great way to get our message across to those that are on twitter.

Please members, if you are thinking or are returning to the UK, please let me know the reason why, and remember you can still receive our newsletters.

Also would you be willing to carry on with the campaign for parity? By keeping your finger on the pulse and writing to newspapers, MP's & Lords on the fight for parity and perhaps going face to face with your local MP in his surgery.

Also would you be interested in allowing the ICBP to know your reason for returning?

Another place to leave your mark.

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Prime_Minister_David_Cameron_UK_Government_Pay_pension_parity_to_all_British_pensioners/?tqtqFjb

Please everyone we have to support Brian in his endeavours. He is fighting for us all.

If you want to find out what MP is now the local MP for your last constituency one can look them up here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

Please start writing again to as many MP's as possible asking them to sign the latest EDM.

Don't forget to check on <https://www.facebook.com/pensionjustice?fref=ts> as this is up to date on our fight.

Please if you do not hear from me always check out <http://www.bestbirds.co.za/news.php> I will post anything that I hear on the website if I can. click the links hereunder.

<http://frozenbritishpensions.org/>

<http://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/ec6e2929-ba69-42bf-9070-6a4022131302?in=16%3A00%3A23&out=16%3A06%3A06>

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1235>

£

Please take a moment to remember those who have passed on before we WILL WIN THIS FIGHT....

<http://www.bestbirds.co.za/news.php>

STAY POSITIVE

It may not happen in our life time.

WE WILL WIN IN THE END

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