



SOUTH AFRICAN EXPAT BRITISH PENSIONERS
Newsletter 13 June 2015

International Pension Queries

- **Email:** typ.internationalqueries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk
- **Phone:** +44 (0) 191.218.7777
- **Post:** The Pension Service 11, Mail Handling Site A, Wolverhampton, WV98 1LW, UK

Please if you phone them, remember to phone in the early morning or the late afternoon, as they are more quieter then.

From Members,

From a member who has relocated to the UK.

First, when I returned to live in the UK after 20 years in South Africa I went through no UK formalities at all. All the red tape was on the SA side. For example, I was not allowed to have my SA retirement annuity pension payments paid into a British bank; they have to keep being paid into a SA 'Non-Resident' bank account. So the sums simply keep accumulating, and I do have to pay monthly bank charges (not huge). From time to time I transfer a lump sum to my UK bank, and of course bank charges are involved for those transfers. But there's no difficulty accessing the money in my SA 'Non-Resident' bank account.

Before leaving SA you have to fill in a lot of paperwork regularising your tax, investment and banking position before you leave, and part of this entails arranging transfer of whatever capital you are using to relocate and invest in your new UK home. The banking side was quite efficient, but don't expect the TAX authorities to act speedily, in fact I recommend a face to face appointment. My financial adviser didn't have the relevant experience to handle this for me, but it's not rocket science: just don't try to do it in a hurry.

I had kept my UK bank account and Barclaycard while I was in SA, so I had no problem on that score. On the other hand I found it almost impossible to get any store card or credit card not associated with my existing bank account, for reasons of not having lived in the UK long enough. For driving and car insurance your years of SA driving experience are regarded as non-existent. Getting a bus pass and a senior railcard is simple and straightforward.

Obviously on arrival in the UK you need to regularise your British tax status. I had no trouble doing this. For NHS purposes you simply register with whichever GP, dentist and optician which has vacancies for additional NHS patients. The key to all this is to quote your National Insurance number – the number by which you are known by the DWP. Pensioners pay nothing for GP appointments or prescriptions. You pay a very affordable small sum (£18.50) for a dental check-up, and a couple of years ago I paid £49 for a filling. I can't trace having paid anything for an eye test. From the age of 75 your TV licence is free, and I believe some other perks also kick in.

Unfortunately I have no idea about the status of a husband who is a SA citizen, or a child with special needs. However, there are so many support groups for various clinical conditions that I rather think the best source of information is the internet. The NHS website contains some information: [http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Dyspraxia-\(childhood\)/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Dyspraxia-(childhood)/Pages/Introduction.aspx). The following is the government website that deals with visas: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

Dear Norma

To the lady who is thinking of returning to the UK to retire. First of all she should have handed in her NHS cards.

She will have to be back in the UK 6 months before she can use any NHS facility. She will be helped in a medical emergency but could be charged later. My husband and myself are also not thinking, but are going to return to the UK soon. Her UK driving licence will not apply any more if she has been outside the UK to live for more than one year. I still own a house in the UK, but the rules are the rules and I have found a company called The Fry Group most helpful with information for returning British pensioners.

Hi Norma

Thanks for another good newsletter.

I noticed a letter about dealing with dyspraxia in the UK – my sister in the UK is a specialist in learning difficulties and will know all about local authority support (which is being reduced because of the government's austerity drive) and I am sure will be willing to answer any questions.

As regards the initiative to flood DWP with letter between 15 and 30 June, I think it is an excellent idea.

Best wishes

Dear Norma,

I am pleased to record that I have written an Aerogramme to The Pension Service this evening.

I state Aerogramme because they are much cheaper (R4.90) than letters and envelopes + stamp (R7.70)

The other point I should quickly make is that **AIR MAIL is taking up to a month**. I suspect that the Royal Mail Flying Boat service may have been secretly re-introduced, taking mail across the Mediterranean to Cairo, then via Lake Victoria, Mombassa and Durban before a final leg to Cape Town! Either that or the backlog of the 3 month postal strike has not been cleared!

Best wishes,

Hi Norma

The address below is where I have sent letters to and actually received replies from. The E-MAIL Address may be of assistance to other British Pensioners as it appears to get to the right people.

Department of Works & Pensions

Ministerial Correspondence

Caxton House

Tothill Street

LONDON

SW1H 9DA

E- mail : ministers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Regards

Hello Norma,

PS on a recent visit to Home Affairs to apply for my Smartcard ID, I was informed that although I am a SA citizen, I am not eligible for the new ID because I was not born in this country! I suspect a sinister motive here. Can anyone throw any light on this?

Dear Norma

In regard to the lady who wrote in to your newsletter for advice on how to get her husband a visa so he could return with his British wife to the U.K., permanently. My husband has only needed a visa for any holiday we have taken in the U.K., but we found that the best way of actually contacting anyone was to e-mail to visa4uk@fco.gov.uk

It is so frustrating not being able to phone the Consul in Pretoria and talk to a human being or not being able to do anything through the British Trade Commission in Johannesburg. We finally got to see and talk to someone at the offices in Sandton City. So perhaps they would be able to give advice on the gentleman wanting to go with his wife, not just getting a visa if she is already living in the UK.

I hope this helps, if you could pass it on to your newsletter or her. I wonder what happens to people who don't have a computer when they want to contact the British Embassy for these sorts of problems?!!

Kind regards and thanks for all your hard work.

Hi Norma, couple of points.

Last letter (12) you had a female asking about her husband (SA Citizen) being able to relocate to UK with her. Short answer is No!

Easy way to get answers to these types of question is to phone Pensions Service (during **their** working hours) at Tyneview Park, Newcastle upon Tyne.

They will give short, concise answers in seconds.

Second, I think our chances of EVER getting any form of increment have now gone for all time. (ie forget letters, e-mails, whatever. A waste of time now).

1. Only folks who have been out of the UK less than 15 years (at the time) will be able to vote on the EU referendum. Which implies that in the near future those who have been out longer will no longer be welcome back. (ie ONLY those who have been out LESS than 15 years will be able to go back if the UK leaves the EU).

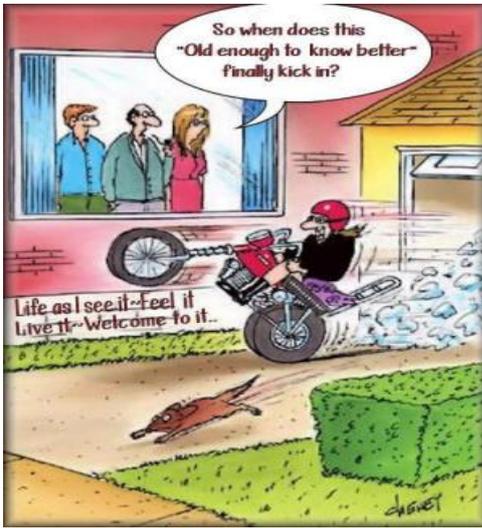
2. As from tomorrow **all** employers in the UK (even if you employ a maid (sound familiar??)) will have to pay into their employees' pension fund.

Obvious implication is that the UK is beginning to phase out **State** Pensions altogether.

Osborn promised further major cuts. We can only happily look forward to them.

I hope the bastards rot in hell.

Cheers,



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?

Answers to Sudoku 12

5	6	9	1	7	3	2	8	4	8	6	3	1	9	7	4	2	5
8	7	3	9	2	4	5	1	6	9	5	4	8	2	3	1	6	7
1	2	4	5	6	8	7	9	3	1	7	2	4	5	6	3	8	9
9	5	6	8	4	7	1	3	2	2	8	1	6	7	4	5	9	3
3	1	7	2	5	9	4	6	8	3	4	5	9	1	2	8	7	6
2	4	8	3	1	6	9	5	7	7	9	6	5	3	8	2	1	4
7	8	1	4	3	5	6	2	9	4	3	7	2	8	9	6	5	1
4	3	2	6	9	1	8	7	5	5	2	9	3	6	1	7	4	8
6	9	5	7	8	2	3	4	1	6	1	8	7	4	5	9	3	2

More Sudoku

			1			6	
		5	9			8	
		6		7	3		
		2		9		1 7	
					4	9	
				5			
	2				5		
8			3	6		9	
1		4	8		5		3

						7	1
3				8		5	9
				2		8	
		2				9	1
				6			3
7				4			
	4		9			3	2
	5			7		4	8
	2		3			6	

Answers in Newsletter 14

Subject: driving in the UK

Maybe useless information but may be of interest to some of your groups members.

Clive (Indonesia) **Driving in the UK on a non UK License**

The UK driving license changes on 8th. June 2015.

(you can read an article on <https://uk.cars.yahoo.com/news/iam-warns-impending-changes-scraping-licence-counterpart-100500615.html> As its Yahoo the article will not be available too long).

If like me your UK license has run out and you may want to drive in the UK on your next visit then you may be able to use your "foreign" license. According to the DVLA web site today 23 May 2015:

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence/y> you can drive You can drive any small vehicle (eg car or motorcycle) listed on your full and valid licence for 12 months from when you last entered Great Britain (GB). Going to the web site a few "clicks" gives you that answer.

Driving in Great Britain on a non-GB licence

1 Are you:

- a resident of Great Britain?*
- a visitor to Great Britain?*
- a foreign student studying in Great Britain?*

Select one of the above.

Click on "Next step"

1Are you:

- a visitor to Great Britain?*

2 Where was your licence issued?

Northern Ireland, European Union or European Economic Area

Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man

Any other country.

Select one of the above.

Click on "Next step"

1Are you:

- a visitor to Great Britain?*

2 Where was your licence issued?

Northern Ireland, European Union or European Economic Area

Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man

Any other country

Select one of the above.

Click on "Next step"

1Are you:

- a visitor to Great Britain?*

2Where was your licence issued?

Any other country

You can drive any small vehicle (eg car or motorcycle) listed on your full and valid licence for 12 months from when you last entered Great Britain (GB)

If you've got a bus or lorry licence you can only drive buses or lorries that are registered outside Great Britain if you've actually driven the vehicle into Great Britain yourself.

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

One can also start bugging any MP to let them know all about the frozen pension policy, as I am sure with so many new faces they will have to be brought up to date on our fight for parity.

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

The election results have thrown Scotland and Northern Ireland into sharp focus. We need stories from frozen pensioners who have worked most of their lives in Scotland or Northern Ireland before moving overseas. If you can help us with your story for the press, please email chairman@pensionjustice.org

Don't forget to check on <https://www.facebook.com/pensionjustice?fref=ts>

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

REMEMBER ALL NEWSLETTERS WILL BE PUBLISHED ON MY WEBSITE

<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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Tell: 0027 (0)16 366-0199 Cell No: 0027 (0) 82 565-6931

I am also on Whats App 082 565 6931

SKYPE [norma.maloney2](https://www.skype.com/people/norma.maloney2)