

Notes about the payment of

State Pension

Bereavement Benefits and

Widow's Benefit

These notes are for people who are getting State Pension, Widow's Benefit or a bereavement benefit. Please make sure you read them. They tell you important information about your pension or benefit.

9 Leaving the country where you are living – continued

The reciprocal agreement countries are:

Barbados, Bermuda, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia Guernsey, Israel, Jamaica, Jersey, Mauritius, Montenegro, Philippines, Serbia, Turkey, USA and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

If you do not get the increase while you are abroad, you may get the higher amount of benefit if you visit either the UK or a country where the European Community regulations apply or a reciprocal agreement country except Bermuda and the USA. The lower amount will again be paid when you leave.

You must tell us within one month of the date of arrival in the UK or any of the countries listed above to claim the increased amount from the earliest possible date.

8 Leaving the country where you are living

UK State Pension, Widow's Benefit and bereavement benefits can be paid to you anywhere in the world.

If you are permanently living in another country when benefit rates go up for people living in the UK, you may be able to get the increased rate only if:

you are living in a country where the European Community regulations apply

or you are living in a country with which the UK has a reciprocal agreement that allows you to get the increased amount.

Increases are also payable in Sark under UK law.

The countries where the European Community regulations apply are:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

7 If someone dies

Someone must arrange to tell us if a person getting UK State Pension, Widow's Benefit or a bereavement benefit dies, or if a spouse, civil partner, child or someone looking after children dies.

6 What you must also tell us

Also tell us if

- you or your spouse or civil partner start getting Child Benefit for a child
- you or your spouse or civil partner stop getting Child Benefit for a child
- there is a change in what you told us about the child's education after the age of 16
- you or someone else starts getting another benefit that includes extra money for a child
- you are getting Widow's Benefit because someone under age 20 lives with you and this person
 - dies
 - marries or forms a civil partnership
 - leaves home for one month or more.

1 Changes you must tell us about

You can phone The Pension Service on 0191 21 87777 (+44 191 21 87777 if phoning from outside the UK) or write to us about something that has changed. The address is:

The Pension Service
Tyneview Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
England
NE98 1BA

Please tell us your full name and address and United Kingdom (UK) State Pension, Widow's Benefit or bereavement benefit reference number. This is on letters about your benefit.

You **must** tell us about any of the following changes. They may affect you or someone you get pension or benefit for.

A person who acts for someone getting UK State Pension, Widows Benefit or a bereavement benefit is responsible for telling us about the changes.

2 Earnings

Payment of your pension, benefit or allowance is not affected by any earnings that you have **but** if you get an increase of State Pension for your spouse or for someone who looks after your children, **it will be affected** if that person earns more than a certain amount. We use spouse to mean husband or wife.

If you get an increase of State Pension for children, **it will be affected** if your spouse earns more than a certain amount.

Earnings that your spouse may have **includes** any income from self-employment, self-employed pension arrangements, a personal pension or a pension paid by an employer.

You must tell us if your spouse starts work or if there is any change in their earnings or pensions.

3 About you

Tell us straightaway if you

- change address
- marry, remarry or your marriage ends because of divorce, annulment or you are separated
- form a civil partnership or have your civil partnership dissolved
- are getting Widow's Benefit or a bereavement benefit and you live with someone as if you are married to them or have formed a civil partnership with them
- start getting another benefit or pension or allowance from this or any other UK Government Department
- go into or come out of a hospital in the UK, Leopardstown Park Hospital in Dublin, Ireland or a British military hospital abroad
- go into prison or are held in legal custody.

4 About your spouse or someone looking after your children

Tell us straightaway if your spouse or someone looking after your children

- stops living with you
- is not living with you and you pay less for their upkeep than the extra money you get for them
- starts getting another benefit or pension or allowance from this or any other UK Government Department
- goes into or comes out of a hospital in the UK, Leopardstown Park Hospital in Dublin, Ireland or a British military hospital abroad
- starts getting a pension from an employer or from personal pension or self-employed pension arrangements
- goes into prison or is held in legal custody.

Also tell us if someone who is looking after your children, but is not your spouse

- stops looking after your children
- is not living with you but works for you and the job ends
- is not paid the full amount of the extra money you get for them.

5 About children

Tell us straightaway if any child you are getting benefit for

- marries or forms a civil partnership
- leaves your home
- goes to live with someone else who might adopt them
- leaves school or college
- is age 15 or over and has not been to school or college for 6 months because they were sick or disabled
- is age 16 or over and still at school or college and earns any money from an employer. Do not count part-time or holiday earnings
- starts getting another benefit or pension or allowance from this or any other UK Government Department
- starts a government training scheme or a training course sponsored by an employer.