



9 October 2025

Tēnā koe

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 30 August 2025, requesting policy guidance, internal memos, or correspondence used to interpret sections 187-189 of the Social Security Act 2018 in relation to UK pensions.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

Please find attached a copy of the United Kingdom Direct Deduction Testing pages as **Appendix One**. This document is used by staff to help determine direct deductions for UK pensions.

Information about how the Ministry interprets sections 187-189 of the Social Security Act 2018 is available on MAP. MAP provides legislation and operational policy to staff when making decisions about products and services the Ministry provides.

- Payments from overseas: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/payments-from-overseas/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/payments-from-overseas/index.html)
- Direct deductions of overseas pensions: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/payments-from-overseas/direct-deductions.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/payments-from-overseas/direct-deductions.html)
- Reciprocal Social Security Agreement with the United Kingdom: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/index.html)
- United Kingdom Benefits and Pensions in New Zealand: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/united-kingdom-benefits-and-pensions-in-new-zealand.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/united-kingdom-benefits-and-pensions-in-new-zealand.html)
- Clients receiving United Kingdom benefits or pensions: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/clients-receiving-united-kingdom-benefits-or-pensi-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/clients-receiving-united-kingdom-benefits-or-pensi-01.html)
- Clients entitled to United Kingdom benefits or pensions: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/reciprocal-)

[agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/clients-entitled-to-united-kingdom-benefits-or-pen-01.html](https://www.msd.govt.nz/agreements/reciprocal-united-kingdom/clients-entitled-to-united-kingdom-benefits-or-pen-01.html)

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

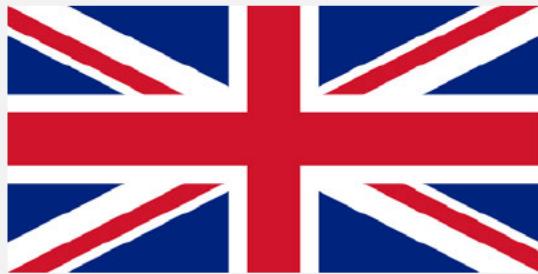
If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request regarding the Ministry's interpretation of sections 187-189 of the Social Security Act 2018, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.



Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**



# United Kingdom

**Reciprocal country**

**Agreement made:**  
**01/04/1990**

**Page last updated: 24**  
**July 2025**

## Overseas Agency Contact

### Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)

The Pension Service  
Post Handling Site A  
Wolverhampton  
WV98 1AF  
United Kingdom

Email: [tvp.internationalqueries@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:tvp.internationalqueries@dwp.gov.uk)

## Testing Criteria

On 6 April 2016, the United Kingdom (the UK) changed its state pension eligibility criteria. Those who were of qualifying age prior to 6 April 2016 are to be assessed for eligibility under the prior qualifying criteria while those who qualified from that date are to be assessed for eligibility under the changed qualifying criteria.

### STATE PENSION (New – post 06/04/2016, new UK pack)

The client must meet the following criteria to qualify for the New State Pension:

- For men: be at least 65 years of age, born on or after 6 April 1951
- For women: be at least 60 years of age (age is gradually increasing to 65), born on or after 6 April 1953
- Have a minimum of 10 qualifying years of page National Insurance contributions from the age of 16

If there is no clear evidence on our records of client having a combined residence in the United Kingdom of **10** years or more, then **DO NOT TEST**.

**State Pension age calculator:** <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>

**State Pension age timetables:**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/310231/spa-timetable.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/310231/spa-timetable.pdf)

**Note:** The State Pension age is gradually increasing from 65 to 66 for both women and men from December 2018. This is reflected in the timetables.

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## **STATE PENSION (Basic – pre 06/04/2016, old UK pack with manual T2 letter)**

- a man born before 6 April 1951; or
- a woman born before 6 April 1953; and
- have a minimum of **12 months** of paid National Insurance contributions from the age of 16

**Note:** National Insurance credits may have been paid to people unable to work (eg. ill, unemployed, or a parent, or those caring for someone). Before 6 April 2010, this was under a scheme known as Home Responsibilities Protection. National Insurance contributions can also have been paid voluntarily from those working abroad.

**Note:** A spouse or civil union partner who is not entitled to a State Pension in their own right, or is only entitled to a partial State Pension; may qualify for a pension or an increased rate of pension based on their partner's National Insurance entitlement. Both partners need to have reached State Pension age. A person does not need to live with their spouse or partner to get the increase and they can apply for the increase even if their partner has not applied for the State Pension. This includes deceased partners and previous relationships.

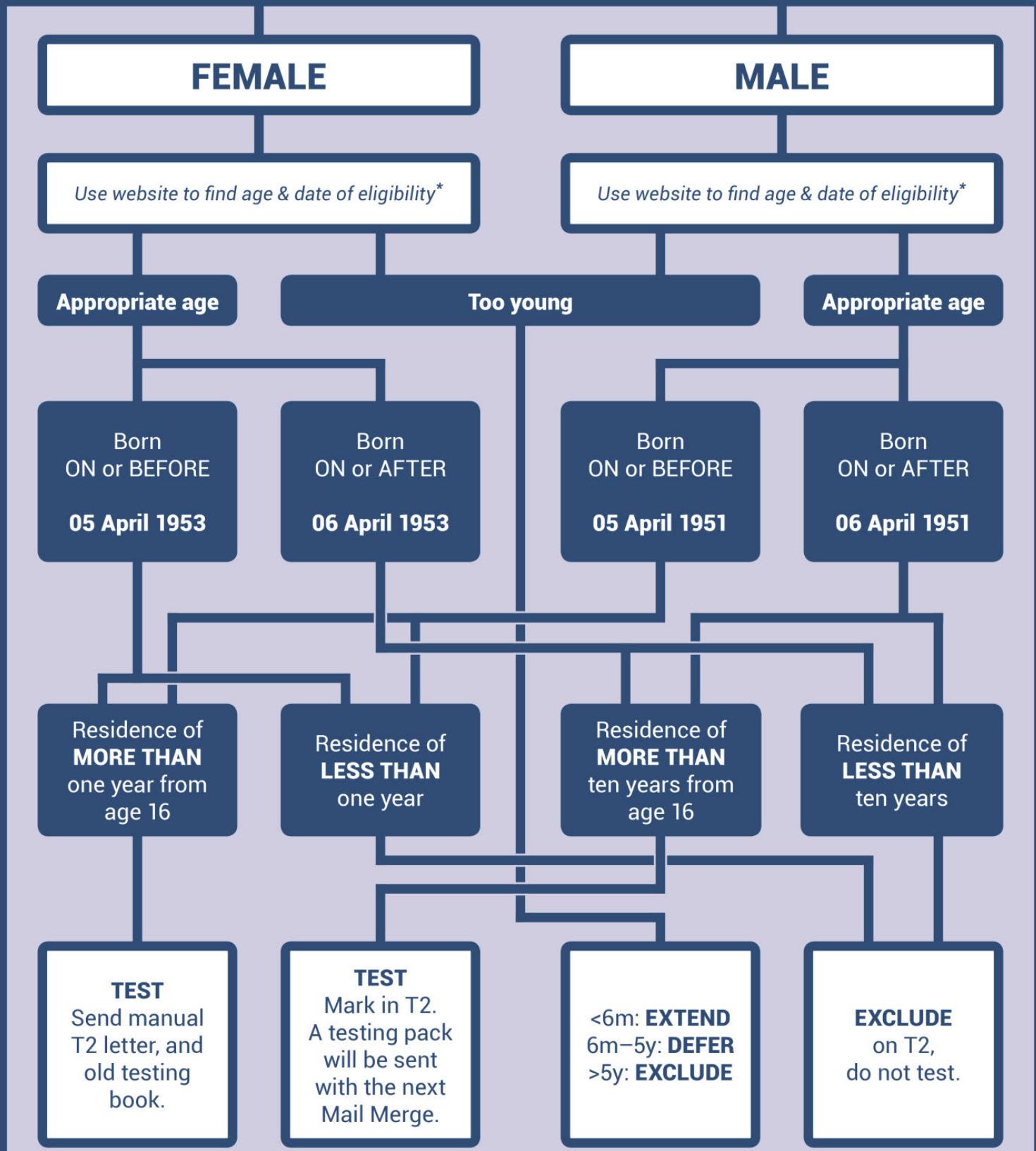
**Note:** Between December 2018 and October 2020 the state pension age will increase for women and men from 65 years to 66 years. Between 2026 and 2028 the state pension age will increase to 67 years, with a further increase between 2044 and 2046 to 68 years.

Any woman born before 6 April 1950 will reach pension age at age 60. For women born on or after 6th April 1950 the date that they will reach pension age can be found in the tables, or by using the State Pension Age Calculator, linked above.

Any man born before 6 December 1953 will reach pension age at age 65. For men born on or after 6 December 1953, the date that they will reach pension age can be found in the tables, or by using the [State Pension Age Calculator](#).

# UNITED KINGDOM

## TESTING FLOWCHART



## Other Pensions – as applicable

### STATE SECOND PENSION (S2P)

S2P is an earnings-related scheme paid on top of the State Pension. It replaces the State Earnings Related pension scheme (SERPS), and Graduated Pensions.

Entitlement to the S2P is calculated by the Pension Service when people apply for the State Pension.

**Note:** Since 1988 everyone has the option of “contracting out” whilst working, and National Insurance contributions are put into a private scheme instead. In such cases, the “contracted out” pension is considered a private pension and is not deductible as it is not paid by or on behalf of the government. Only pensions paid by the Department of Work and Pensions are deductible.

**Note:** a widow, widower or surviving civil union partner can only inherit a maximum of 50 per cent of their spouses or civil union partner’s S2P.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEMES (LGPS)

The LGPSs are a type of “contracted out” scheme available to people through their employer. They are not considered as a private scheme as they are administered by local government authorities which are part of central government.

Entitlement to a LGPS is through occupation, but it is not compulsory for all local government employees to join the LGPS. Instead, they may opt for a private “contracted out” scheme instead.

### BEREAVEMENT ALLOWANCE (including Widow’s Benefit)

The client must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Bereavement Allowance in New Zealand:

- Their husband, wife or civil partner died before 6 April 2017; and
- They are aged 45 or over when their husband, wife, or civil partner died; and
- They are under State Pension age; and
- Their late husband, wife or civil partner paid National Insurance contributions, or they died as a result of an industrial accident or disease (in the United Kingdom)

**Note:** Clients cannot claim a Bereavement Allowance if:

- They are raising children; or
- They have remarried or formed a new civil partnership; or

- Their civil union partnership was dissolved at the time of their civil union partner's death; or
- They are living with another person in a marriage type relationship; or
- They are in prison

**Note:** The Bereavement Allowance is payable for up to 52 weeks from the date of death of the client's wife, husband or civil union partner.

**Note:** The Bereavement Allowance was introduced in 2001 to replace the Widow's Benefit.

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## **BEREAVEMENT PAYMENT / BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT PAYMENT**

The client must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Bereavement Allowance in New Zealand:

- Their husband, wife or civil partner died before 6 April 2017; and

When their husband, wife or civil partner died, they were:

- Under State Pension age
- Over State Pension age, while their husband, wife or civil partner wasn't entitled to a State Pension based on their own National Insurance contributions

**Note:** clients cannot claim a Bereavement Payment if:

- They were divorced from their husband, wife or civil partner; or
- They are living with another person in a marriage type relationship; or
- They are in prison

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## **ADULT DEPENDENCY INCREASE**

Clients can no longer apply for this payment from 6 April 2010. Clients already receiving this payment will continue to receive it until they no longer qualify or until 5 April 2020 whichever date comes first.

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## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (FAS)**

The Financial Assistance Scheme was first announced on 14 May 2004.

To be eligible for an FAS payment clients must:

- Belong, or have belonged to a qualifying pension scheme, and been a member of that scheme immediately prior to the scheme commencing wind-up

Payments to scheme members are made from the latter of the scheme retirement age (with a lower age limit of 60 and an upper age limit of 65) and the FAS announcement date.

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## **WIDOWED PARENT'S ALLOWANCE (WPA)**

The client must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Widowed Parent's Allowance in New Zealand:

- Their husband, wife or civil partner died before 6 April 2017; and
- They are under State Pension age; and
- They are entitled to claim Child Benefit, that is, responsible for one or more children under 16, or under 20 if currently enrolled in some type of education or training
- Their husband, wife or civil partner paid National Insurance contributions, or they died as a result of an industrial accident or disease (in the United Kingdom)

**Note:** clients cannot claim Widowed Parent's Allowance if:

- They were divorced from their husband, wife or civil partner; or
- They are living with another person in a marriage type relationship; or
- They are in prison

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## **Directly Deductible under NZ Law**

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State pension (new)</li> <li>• State pension (basic)</li> <li>• State Pension (Basic) increase due to Home Responsibility Protection</li> <li>• State Second Pension (S2P)</li> <li>• Bereavement Allowance (including Widow's Benefit)</li> <li>• Bereavement Payment (pre 6 April 2017)</li> <li>• Bereavement Support Payment (post 6 April 2017)</li> <li>• Dependent's Increase</li> <li>• Financial Assistance Scheme (Pension Protection Fund)</li> <li>• Widowed Parent's Allowance (<i>formerly Widowed Mother's Allowance</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) (statutorily non-deductible from April 2016)</li> <li>• Armed Forces Pension Scheme</li> <li>• ABB Pension Plan</li> <li>• Atos Origin and Atos Sema Pension Scheme</li> <li>• British Airways Pension Scheme (APS)</li> <li>• British Telecom (BT) Pension Scheme</li> <li>• Capita</li> <li>• Child Benefit</li> <li>• Crown Agents Staff Pension</li> <li>• DIAGEO Pension Scheme</li> <li>• Department of Finance and Personnel Pensions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity Supply Pension Scheme (Magnox administered by RPMI EPAL)</li> <li>• Employment and Support Allowance</li> <li>• Ernst &amp; Young Pension</li> <li>• Guardians Allowance</li> <li>• Harott &amp; Co. Ltd Retirement Benefits Scheme (administered by Friends Life Services Ltd)</li> <li>• Hille Ergonom Pension Scheme (administered by First Actuarial)</li> <li>• Industrial Disablement Pension (treat as ACC Payment)</li> <li>• Incapacity Benefit (replaced with Employment and Support Allowance from 27/10/2008) (not paid outside UK)</li> <li>• Income Support (replaced with Employment and Support Allowance from 27/10/2008) (NO – not paid outside UK)</li> <li>• Innospec Pension Plan</li> <li>• Invensys Pension Scheme</li> <li>• IOSP Pension Plan</li> <li>• Job Seekers Allowance</li> <li>• John Lewis Pension</li> <li>• Kingfisher Pension</li> <li>• Lancashire Fire and Rescue Pension</li> <li>• Legal And General Assurance Society Pension</li> <li>• Merchant Navy Pension</li> <li>• National Health Service (NHS) Pension Scheme (includes Northern Ireland HSC Pension)</li> <li>• Oscar Faber Pension Fund</li> <li>• Principal Civil Service Pension</li> <li>• Printpak Pension</li> <li>• Prudential Pension</li> <li>• Railways Pension Scheme</li> <li>• Rexel UK Pension Scheme (administered by Punter Southall)</li> <li>• Royal Mail Pension Plan</li> <li>• Serco Plas IAL Pension (administered by Mercer)</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ShipBuilding Industries Pension Scheme</li><li>• Standard Life Pension</li><li>• </li><li>• T&amp;N Retirement Pension Scheme</li><li>• Teachers' Pension</li><li>• TRW Pension Scheme</li><li>• Transport for London Pension Fund</li><li>• UK Cancer Research Pension Scheme</li><li>• Universities Superannuation Scheme Ltd</li><li>• Vodafone UK Defined Contribution Pension Plan</li><li>• Volvo Truck and Bus Group Pension Scheme</li><li>• W H Smith Pensions</li><li>• W S Dependents' Annuity Fund</li><li>• Xerox Pensions</li><li>• War Disablement Pension and Related Allowances (administered by Service Personnel and Veterans Agency of the United Kingdom)</li><li>• War Widow's Supplementary Pension (administered by Service Personnel and Veterans Agency of the United Kingdom)</li><li>• War Widow's Age Allowance (administered by Service Personnel and Veterans Agency of the United Kingdom)</li><li>• Combined Atomic Energy Authority Pension Scheme administered by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority</li><li>• Mineworkers' Pension Scheme</li><li>• Joint Superannuation Service (JSS) pension administered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS)</li><li>• Lifetime Allowance administered by Canada Life LTD.</li><li>• NatWest Group Pension</li><li>• Civil Aviation Authority Pension (CAAPS)</li></ul>
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## External Links

[Social Security throughout the world - United Kingdom](#)

[Department of Work & Pensions](#)

[International Pension Centre contact details](#)

[New State Pension](#)