

# Freedom of Information request 1392/2013

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## Information request

*As a pensioner living in Canada and having my pension frozen which was described by the Pensions Minister and many others as being discriminative, how does the department allow different treatment to identical pensioners based purely on the country of residence when there is no necessity for any agreement with those countries and the pension contract is therefore broken by the government. The new Charter with the Commonwealth must be observed if it has any value and by not following the agreement the government are placing Her Majesty the Queen who signed it in a very bad situation by ignoring and not acting on the content.*

## DWP response

The arrangements for the payment of UK State Pension to pensioners' resident outside the UK will vary depending on the country of residence and the agreement between that country and the UK government.

The frozen pension policy with Canada which you refer to is a long standing government policy and there are no plans to make any changes to the current arrangements.

The legality of these arrangements has been addressed in previous correspondence with you on this issue and the position remains unchanged following the signing of the new Charter with the Commonwealth.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above, however should you have any further questions concerning frozen pension policy, these can be handled using the normal correspondence process, which I understand you may have used on previous occasions.