

Freedom of Information request 1397/2013

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Information request and DWP response

How many people are there in England with a pension, and does this make any trouble for the affordability of the welfare state?

The UK State Pension is paid to 12.6 million people, around a million of who live overseas. For more information see http://83.244.183.180/100pc/sp/ccsex/cnage/a_carate_r_ccsex_c_cnage_aug12.html

Can you go with an early pension, if yes, which financial consequences does this have?

There is no early pension in the State scheme; the earliest a person can get the State Pension is when they reach State Pension age. State Pension age is currently 65 for men and between 60 and 65 for women. From October 2020 it will be 66 for men and women. For more information see <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/pensions-reform/state-pension-age/>

What do you require to get a pension?

To get the full basic State Pension a person currently needs 30 years worth of National Insurance contributions or credits. For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension/overview> .

From 2016, the UK Government proposes to introduce a flat-rate pension which will need 35 years worth of National Insurance contributions or credits. For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/changes-state-pension>