

Freedom of Information request 2013-3353

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Information request

Approximately how many people each year seek the benefit of their spouses' NI contributions following divorce, for the purposes of enhancing their state pensions?

DWP response

The Department's administrative datasets are not able to estimate the number of divorced individuals who derive entitlement to the **basic State Pension** based on their ex-spouse's or civil partner's National Insurance contributions because the datasets do not distinguish these individuals from people claiming a Category A basic State Pension in their own right. More information on State Pension entitlement derived from a current or former spouse's or civil partner's national insurance contributions can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/181235/derived-inherited-entitlement.pdf.

Pension sharing is an option available to divorcing couples and the court in deciding how the assets following the divorce should be shared. It allows the divorcing couple to achieve a financial "clean break" settlement so that they are no longer dependent on one another. The rules have applied to civil partnerships since December 2005. Under the current system, the beneficiary gains a shared **additional pension** in their own right that is payable at State Pension age for their lifetime. In the 2012/13 tax year, the Department processed around 10,000 pension share valuations and received court orders for shared additional pension in around 1% to 2% of the valuations amounting to around 150 cases.

Source: DWP Management Information