



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

DWP Central Freedom of  
Information Team  
Caxton House  
6-12 Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Anne Camm  
request-749524-8d5e9531@whatdotheyknow.com

[freedom-of-information-  
request@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dwp.gov.uk)

[DWP Website](#)

Our Ref: FOI2021/31613

27 April 2021

Dear Anne Camm,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 21 April. You wrote:

“Under what circumstances can someone’s State Pension be reduced.”

## **DWP Response**

It may be helpful if we explain the role of the FoI Act. It provides a legal right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like the DWP, subject to certain exemptions that may apply. The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give advice, opinion or explanation, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

You have asked about a reduction in State Pension. There are currently two State Pension systems in payment. There is the old system (basic and additional State Pension) for people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016 and the new State Pension for people reaching State Pension age on or after 6 April 2016. Details of how the State Pension is calculated can be found on the Government's website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk): For the old State Pension it is <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension/eligibility> and for the new State Pension it is <https://www.gov.uk/new-state-pension/how-its-calculated>.

If you would like information about the department's policies, please contact the Department's Ministerial Correspondence Team. If the request relates to your personal circumstances, please provide additional detail. The contact details can be found at the foot of the page in the following link: [www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-the-department-for-work-and-pensions-about-its-policies](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-the-department-for-work-and-pensions-about-its-policies).

Yours sincerely,

DWP Central Freedom of Information Team  
Department for Work and Pensions

## **Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act**

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing [freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gov.uk](mailto:freedom-of-information-request@dpw.gov.uk) or by writing to: DWP Central FoI Team, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Any review request should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.