

Support for planning your retirement

Information on
your State Pension
and on tracing an
old pension

Getting the right information and help when you're about to retire is essential. This leaflet tells you about the support you might get. It doesn't go into detail, but explains where you can get more information and who to contact. Other organisations may also be able to help you.

Planning ahead

It's never too early to plan ahead and ensure you have the money you need when you retire. Starting a savings plan or a pension scheme will add to the amount of money you have to live on when you retire.



To find out about planning ahead,
visit www.direct.gov.uk/betterfuture

The website includes two useful tools:

- The 'Profiler' calculates your State Pension age and provides an estimate of how much basic State Pension you may have built up to date.
- The 'Future Wallet' calculates how much money you may need to live on.

State Pension age is currently 65 for men. Women's State Pension age is rising in stages from 60 to 65. However you should be aware that the Government has proposed that State Pension age for men and women will increase from 65 to 66 by 2020.



Find out more at
www.direct.gov.uk/statepension

Finding out how much you'll get

To find out more details of what you might get when you reach your State Pension age, you can apply for a State Pension forecast. This is more personalised than the 'Profiler', explaining how much money you could expect from the State.



Apply online at
www.direct.gov.uk/pensionforecast



Apply by phone: **0845 300 0168**

If you think you may not get a full State Pension, you can consider paying voluntary National Insurance contributions.



Find out more at
www.direct.gov.uk/topupni

State Pension may be only part of the story. If you have a company or personal pension, you can ask your provider for a forecast of how much it might pay.

If you've lost the details of an old company or personal pension scheme, the Pension Tracing Service can help provide contact details for it. You'll need to contact the pension scheme yourself to check if you're entitled to anything.



Find out more at
www.direct.gov.uk/pensiontracing

Forecasts can give you an idea of how much income you'll have in retirement. But you may want to get independent advice. To find out how to do that, visit **www.moneymadeclear.org.uk**

Approaching State Pension age

Many people enjoy working and continue to work past their State Pension age. You may have more options than you think.



Find out more at
www.direct.gov.uk/betterfuture

You can claim your State Pension whether or not you continue working. Or you can put off claiming to get extra weekly State Pension or a lump sum plus your weekly State Pension at a later date. This is called ‘deferring’ your pension.



Find out more at
www.direct.gov.uk/statepensiondeferral

Before you reach your State Pension age, we’ll contact you to tell you what you need to do. If you haven’t heard from us by the time you’re two weeks from your State Pension age, phone us on **0800 731 7898**.

Textphones

If you have a textphone because you can’t speak or hear clearly, there are different numbers for each service listed in this leaflet. These numbers don’t accept voice calls or text messages from mobile phones.

State Pension forecast Textphone **0845 300 0169**

We also have basic information leaflets covering:

- Support if you are ill or disabled
- Support for carers
- Support for parents and guardians
- Support after a death
- Support if you are looking for work.

This information is available in other formats on request.

If you can't use the internet, you can phone for a more detailed leaflet.



Phone **0845 606 5065**
Textphone **0845 604 0210**

Call charges

Calls to the 0800 numbers in this leaflet are free from BT land lines and most mobiles.

Calls to 0845 numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 7p a minute with a 11p call set-up charge. You may pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone. Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p a minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider. Charges were correct as of the date below.

This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure the leaflet is correct as of the date below. Some of the information may be oversimplified or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law. We recommend that you get independent advice before making financial decisions based on this leaflet.

DWP aims to provide a high quality of service to all its customers. You can find out more in our Customer Charter at

www.direct.gov.uk/dwpcharter

