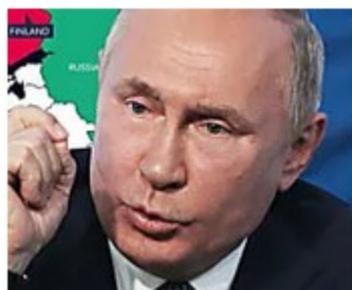




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State pension fury as Johnson's triple lock move 'could cost lives'

STATE PENSION changes to the triple lock could cost lives this winter, former pensions minister Baroness Ros Altmann told Express.co.uk.

By **CHARLIE BRADLEY**

08:40, Sat, Dec 4, 2021 | UPDATED: 09:17, Sat, Dec 4, 2021





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Many people who receive a state pension were left furious earlier this year when the Government announced the triple lock will be abandoned. The policy guarantees that payments will increase by the highest of average earnings, inflation or 2.5 percent. However, because COVID-19 distorted the wages of people in the UK, the state pension was set for a huge 8.3 percent increase. Prime Minister Boris Johnson deemed this to be unfair on working taxpayers who had also been impacted by the pandemic.

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However, Baroness Ros Altmann, who is a former pensions minister, told Express.co.uk that ditching the triple lock could "cost lives".

She said: "We already know that pensioners were struggling to make ends meet if they only had the state pension payments, and given the rise of prices is effecting basic goods like food and energy, they will increasingly this winter will have to choose between keeping warm and keeping fed.

"It could well cost lives.

"The fact is the Government have taken money off the poorest people in the country, and I don't believe that is fair.



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"I believe that is an absolute betrayal, I really do feel this was a very wrong decision.



State pension news: Johnson has been criticised (Image: getty)



"I hope the fuss we make this year will mean that this doesn't happen again."

Baroness Altman brought forward a proposal in the House of Lords last month, hoping to reverse the Government's decision.

The upper chamber voted to keep the triple lock, but the House of Commons then sided with the Government by 300 votes to 229.

Pensions minister Guy Opperman said the Government remained committed to the triple lock for the rest of the Parliament and the adjustment was for one year only.

Tying the pensions uprating to earnings is "not possible", he said.

He added. "ONS experts investigated whether it was possible to produce a single robust figure for underlying earnings growth that stripped out impacts from the pandemic. They concluded this was not possible.