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Threat of frozen state pensions lifted in boost for British expats in the EU - but you must have moved there by the end of 2020

- **Brexit deal offers certainty on future state pension rises for current EU expats**
- **They were previously warned rises after 2023 would depend on reciprocal deals**
- **The news applies to people in Switzerland and EEA countries too**
- **People who move between now and the end of 2020 get the same guarantee**
- **State pension rises for post-2020 expats rest on future negotiations**
- **That could cause rush of would-be expats speeding up plans to move**

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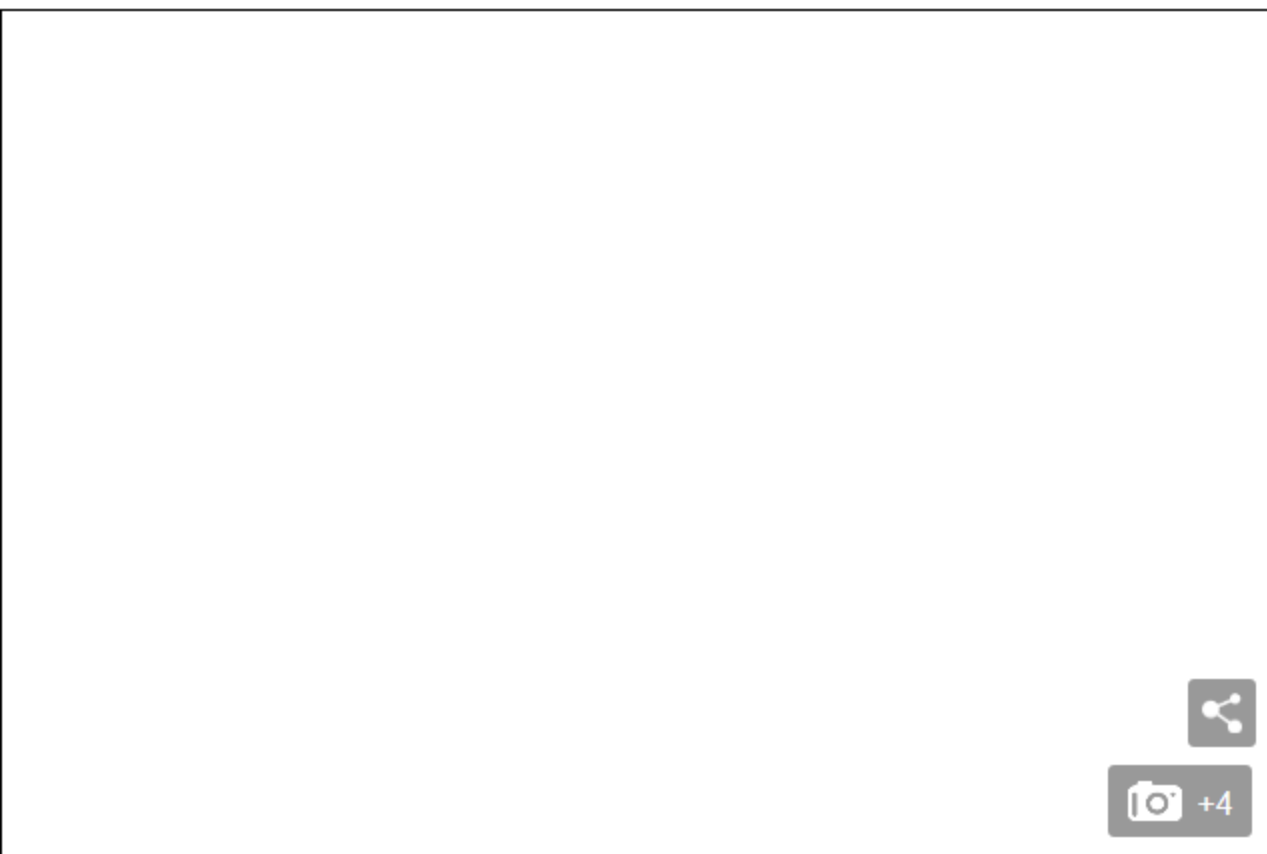
British expats in the European Union will continue to get annual increases in the state pension, but they might not get that if the Government's financial

pension and healthcare rights are also protected, the Government has confirmed today.

However, those moving there after 2020 might see pension payments frozen unless a post-Brexit deal is struck, This is Money can reveal.

The withdrawal agreement under which the UK leaves the EU on January 31 provides certainty on future state pension rises for more than half a million current expats.

They will be reassured after **being informed last autumn** that after Brexit their state pensions would be uprated annually until 2023, but after that decisions would depend on whether reciprocal arrangements with the EU are in place.



State pension: Existing EU expats will continue to get annual increases, and so will people who move there before the end of 2020

People who move to EU countries between now and the end of 2020 will get the same guarantee that state pension increases for UK pensioners - of at least 2.5 per cent a year under **the current triple lock system** - will apply to them too.

The same goes for people living in Switzerland, and countries which are in the European Economic Area but not the EU - Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

But it means those who move to the EU after the end of 2020 might

but it means people who move to the EU or the countries above after 2020 might end up in the same boat as the 550,000 retirees around the world whose state pensions are currently frozen.