

November 6, 2003

Overseas Pensioners Granted Leave to Appeal to the House of Lords

The Appeal Committee of the House of Lords have just decided to grant Leave to Appeal to the House of Lords.

Annette Carson and supporting Pensioner Organisations are delighted that the Appeal will proceed and hope that a Hearing Date can be fixed soonest as over ½m pensioners plight worsens by the day due to their lack of a decent pension.

Ms. Carson's Solicitor, Graham Chrystie of Thomas Eggar commented "the overseas pensioners are at the bottom of the pile and hopefully UK Pensioners who had recently experienced pension cuts (and expectations) would support these Britons overseas whose plight is often desperate".

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Notes to Editors:

Ms Carson moved to South Africa in 1989; she was told by the UK Government that she would have to continue making contributions if she wanted a full UK state pension; she first received her pension in September 2000; the Government first refused its uprating (indexation) in April 2001.

* Pensioners in many countries do not receive the increases, many of them living in Commonwealth countries. The majority are in Australia (254,000 pensioners) and Canada (147,000); others are in New Zealand (37,100) and South Africa (36,000) while there are nearly 60,000 living in other countries. Pensioners in other countries who do receive increases, including all EU countries and the USA, number 400,000 (figure does not include UK).

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