



## Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

21 FEB 2020

Robert Newcombe

By email: [fyi-request-12090-22b0d4ee@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12090-22b0d4ee@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: PMO 2020-005

Dear Robert Newcombe

### Correspondence relating to the transfer of overseas pensions

Thank you for your email of 27 January 2020 about the transfer of overseas pensions and application of the United National Compact for Migration and the transfer of overseas pension. You set out your views regarding the history of the treatment of overseas contributory government pensions in New Zealand and asked for:

*“...A quick and full explanation would appreciated...”*

Although you submitted your request via the fyi.org website and you stated it was an “Official Information request” in the subject-line of your email, your email does not appear to be seeking any specific official information that is likely to be held by the Prime Minister or this Office. Accordingly, I am unable to address your request under the Official Information Act 1982, and have responded to the matters you raised below.

Your correspondence relates to the treatment of overseas contributory government pensions in terms of the eligibility of New Zealand superannuation, which is set out in The Social Security Act 2018. The 2018 Act replaced the Social Security Act 1964 in November 2018. I can confirm that the Social Security Act 2018 is the responsibility of the Minister for Social Development, Hon Carmel Sepuloni, and is administered by the Ministry of Social Development. This Office has referred past correspondence from you relating to similar issues to that Minister.

In October 2019 the Government introduced the first reading of the New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran’s Pension Legislation Amendment Bill. This will mean people receiving a standard rate of superannuation will no longer have their entitlement affected because their partner receives a government-administered overseas pension. Public submissions on this Bill were open until 1 December 2019. The Bill is now at the Select Committee stage and is due to be reported back to the House on 30 March 2020, with the changes intended to take effect in July 2020. You can read more about the Bill on the Parliament website at: [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_92647/new-zealand-superannuation-and-veteran-s-pension-legislation](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_92647/new-zealand-superannuation-and-veteran-s-pension-legislation)

Responsibility for further reforms relating to eligibility for New Zealand superannuation and the transfer of overseas contributory government pensions sit with the Minister for Social Development. If you have any further questions about this issue I suggest you get in contact with Minister Sepuloni as the responsible Minister.

If your correspondence was seeking more information about eligibility for New Zealand superannuation for those individuals also receiving an overseas government pension, you may also find information on the following government websites helpful:

Advice on the Work and Income website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/moving-to-nz/getting-an-overseas-benefit-or-pension-in-nz.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/moving-to-nz/getting-an-overseas-benefit-or-pension-in-nz.html).

Advice relating to tax and benefits on the New Zealand Government website: [www.govt.nz/browse/tax-benefits-and-finance/new-zealand-superannuation-and-the-veterans-pension/nz-superannuation-veterans-pension-and-overseas-pensions](http://www.govt.nz/browse/tax-benefits-and-finance/new-zealand-superannuation-and-the-veterans-pension/nz-superannuation-veterans-pension-and-overseas-pensions)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Raj Nahna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Raj Nahna  
**Chief of Staff**