

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**00.01 THURSDAY 23 October 2003**

## **PPI publishes *Raising State Pension Age: An Update***

The UK is not ready to raise State Pension Age (SPA) yet but it should not be ruled out as a policy option, says a report published today by the Pensions Policy Institute.

*Raising State Pension Age: An Update* assesses the policy a year after the PPI's original discussion paper *Raising State Pension Age: Are We Ready?* was published.

The report challenges the arguments against raising SPA, showing that people often misunderstand the policy and focus solely on the negative effects. Yet these negative effects could be mitigated, if it were decided that raising SPA was right for other reasons.

Raising SPA is a valid policy option and could be one of the trade-offs involved in reforming the state pension system says the report. Therefore it should be kept as a live policy issue, as part of the debate on making state pensions better in the long-term.

The main conclusions of the report are:

- There are many advantages to raising SPA. It may be the only way to sustain a better state pension in future, and it fits with the potential for longer working lives.
- The policy is unpopular at present but many of the perceived problems could be mitigated as part of wider reforms of state pensions and social security policy.
- There are signs that working longer is becoming more of a reality, which could make raising SPA easier in future.
- Raising SPA should be considered an important trade-off in the reform of the state pension system. It is not a stand-alone policy and its role must be clear to avoid confusion and misunderstanding.

Alison O'Connell, Director of the PPI said;  
"Despite the policy's current unpopularity, raising SPA could play an important part in making the state pension system better.

I hope this paper will lead to a better discussion of the policy intention and its likely consequences. Labour market policy, social security policy and pensions policy must be considered together to determine exactly what role raising SPA could play within an improved state pension system."

- ENDS -

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*Notes For Editors -*

- SPA in the UK is currently 65 for men and 60 for women. Between 2010 and 2020, the SPA for women will increase, so that by 2020, SPA will be 65 for everyone.
- SPA is not 'retirement age'. There is no official retirement age.
- A copy of the complete report, the previous report and information on the PPI can be found at: [www.pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk/](http://www.pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk/). Copies can be obtained from the PPI on 020 7848 3744 or [info@pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk](mailto:info@pensionspolicyinstitute.org.uk)
- The Pensions Policy Institute is an independent research organisation, focused on pension provision. Its aim is to improve information and understanding about pensions (state and private) through research and analysis, discussion and publication. 70 governors from a wide range of pension-related backgrounds support the PPI.