

# Working beyond retirement

**We answer your queries about working after retirement age**

▶ If you were born on or before 5 April 1950, you can claim your state pension at the age of 60 if you are a woman and 65 if you are a man. However, many people may prefer to carry on working either paid or unpaid beyond this age. Here, we explain the rules.

## Can I stay in my current job after I reach retirement age?

As long as your employer is happy for you to do so, you can carry on working, but you have to make a formal request to continue working at least three months before your expected date of retirement.

## Does my employer have to keep me on if I want to stay?

No. Your employer does not have to allow you to continue to work, so you may need to make a good case for them to keep you on. If you are approaching retirement, it's a good idea to take advantage of any training or development opportunities that will help to strengthen your case.

## Can I start a new job at retirement age?

Yes. The government offers schemes and incentives to help you find work, such as the New Deal 50 Plus scheme. You can discuss this and other work opportunities with staff at your local Job Centre.

## Can I work and draw my state pension?

Yes. The law is more flexible now. You can work (full or part time) and draw your pension or you can keep your pension invested and withdraw it at a later date. If you delay drawing your pension, you can either get a higher weekly state pension later on or you can take the amount you deferred as a taxable lump sum with interest and get a normal state pension. You must delay drawing your pension for at least five weeks beyond the time you would normally draw it to get the higher rate, or for 12 months to get the lump sum.

## Do I have to pay tax if I work in retirement?

Yes, but your tax-free allowance (income you can earn without paying tax) is more generous once you reach retirement age. Currently, if you earn £21,800 or less, your tax-free allowance is £6,035 before retirement and £9,030 after retirement. If you work, you may also qualify for

other allowances that will help you reduce your tax bill, such as married couples' allowance.

## What if I find work after I've started drawing my pension?

You can stop your pension payments and defer them for a later date. However, you can only do this once.

## Will working affect my other benefits?

Yes, it may affect your Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit if you are claiming these. Speak to a benefit advisor on 020 8690 8444.

## Can I do voluntary work and claim my pension and benefits?

Yes. Volunteer Centre Lewisham (call 020 8613 7113 or see [www.volunteercentrelewisham.org.uk](http://www.volunteercentrelewisham.org.uk)) can help you get voluntary work in a wide variety of placements, from offices to parks.

