

For Written Answer on : 07/11/2017

Question Number(s): 1222 Question Reference(s): 46182/17

Department: Employment Affairs and Social Protection

QUESTION

WRITTEN question for answer on 07/11/2017 :

To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the number of recipients of a State pension (contributory) that qualified for payment since the changes were made to the bands and rates in 2012 and whose payment is less than the full payment rate as a result of those changes, by gender, local social welfare office, county or other such geographical measure for which data is available. - John Brady.

REPLY

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To the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection

To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the number of recipients of a State pension (contributory) that qualified for payment since the changes were made to the bands and rates in 2012 and whose payment is less than the full payment rate as a result of those changes, by gender, local social welfare office, county or other such geographical measure for which data is available.

- John Brady.

* For WRITTEN answer on Tuesday, 7th November, 2017.

REPLY

Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection (Regina Doherty T.D.):

The change in relation to State pension (contributory), introduced with effect from 1st September 2012, sets out a wider graduation of yearly average bands and corresponding pension rates. The aim of this change is to ensure that the rate of pension payment is more closely related to the paid or credited social insurance contribution record a person holds over their working lives.

The maximum pension rate band, for those with a yearly average of 48 contributions or over, remained unchanged, as did the rate payable to people with a yearly average of between 40 and 47 contributions. A person's yearly average of contributions (including reckonable credits where applicable) determines a person's rate of pension entitlement. The changes

introduced from 1 September 2012 affected only those who qualified for State pension (contributory) after that date, and only those who had an average of between 10 and 39 contributions per year.

According to the records of my Department, the current number of recipients of state pension (contributory) is 391,998. Of those recipients, 42,278 pensioners – 26,598 females and 15,680 males - have been affected by the rate band changes introduced from September 2012. 38,191 of those affected are resident in Ireland – 24,430 females and 13,761 males. The breakdown of these pension recipients per county is provided in the table below.

	State pension (contributory) recipients	Female	Male
Carlow	404	263	141
Cavan	551	328	223
Clare	1143	709	434
Cork	4179	2748	1431
Donegal	1131	639	492
Dublin	10514	7116	3398
Galway	2116	1271	845
Kerry	1398	843	555
Kildare	1721	1166	555
Kilkenny	706	464	242
Laois	502	305	197
Leitrim	279	159	120
Limerick	1606	1062	544
Longford	314	183	131
Louth	855	548	307
Mayo	1340	762	578
Meath	1438	940	498
Monaghan	512	292	220

Offaly	563	349	214
Roscommon	606	351	255
Sligo	694	401	293
Tipperary	1371	887	484
Waterford	890	588	302
Westmeath	764	436	328
Wexford	1186	729	457
Wicklow	1408	891	517
Total	38191	24430	13761

I hope this clarifies the matter for the Deputy.

ENDS