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BROWN PLEDGES RISE IN PENSION

But where will Chancellor find the extra £8billion to fund increase?

GORDON BROWN cleared the way last night for a major increase in the state pension – but it could take decades to deliver.

The Chancellor's pledge offered future pensioners the prospect of seeing their

By **Benedict Brogan**
Political Editor

income rising faster than inflation. But it also left him the unresolved question of how to find £8billion a year to pay for the rise.

Closer inspection of his announcement confirmed the Government has only a vague idea of how he and his successors will find the money. Under one

proposal, the increase would be phased in very gradually, while another suggests it will be initially limited to over-75s.

Mr Brown is refusing to fund the increase with a tax rise – a condition critics say will make it impossible to deliver.

His offer, designed to mollify critics of Labour's failure to resolve the pension issue, came as Lord Turner's final report after a three-year inquiry revealed the

Turn to Page Two



Sir Sean's licence to kilt

SEE PAGES 2 AND 3

WEATHER



Summary: Cloudy with rain

- Glasgow / Argyll**
It will start off dry, but the increasing cloud will bring spells of rain. Max 15c (50f)
- Edinburgh**
Cloud will increase bringing spells of rain later in the afternoon. Max 15c (50f)
- Fife / Dumfries**
After a dry start, there will be cloud and spells of rain throughout the region. Max 9c (48f)
- The Borders**
Sunny spells will give way to cloud. There will be the risk of rain. Max 10c (48f)
- South West**
A dry morning but cloud will increase. Spells of rain for the afternoon. Max 10c (50f)
- Shetland / Orkney**
A blustery day with a lot of cloud and spells of rain, some heavy. Max 7c (45f)
- Cathness / North West**
There will be a lot of cloud and spells of rain, some heavy. Windy. Max 9c (45f)
- The Central Highlands**
A cloudy day with spells of rain and hill snow for most of the day. Max 9c (45f)
- North East / Aberdeen**
It will be a rather cloudy day with spells of rain at times across the region. Max 10c (50f)
- Sea**
North Channel: cloudy, slight. The Minch: rain, moderate. Northern North Sea: cloudy, moderate.

Outlook: Rain clearing south tomorrow: to leave showers.

World yesterday — Scotland yesterday

LOCAL (LONDON REPORTS)		GLASGOW		EDINBURGH		STORNOWAY		INVERNESS		ABERDEEN		GLASGOW		STORNOWAY		INVERNESS		ABERDEEN	
Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind
Algeria	20	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Amsterdam	11	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Athens	13	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Berlin	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Bombay	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Boston	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Buenos Aires	15	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Calcutta	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Chennai	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Copenhagen	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Dublin	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Hankow	15	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Hong Kong	20	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Madras	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manila	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Medan	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Perth	10	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Rangoon	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Shanghai	15	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Singapore	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sourabaya	25	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Tientsin	15	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Yokohama	15	10	10	London	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

Britain yesterday

24 HOURS	Sun	Mon	Tue	Lower 1000' Temp
10 to 1pm	(%)	(%)	(%)	at 1000' (max)
Belfast	11.4	0.00	1	8
Cardiff	10.1	0.02	2	11
Edinburgh	8.3	0.01	0	8
Glasgow	11.2	0.01	1	9
London	7.8	0.04	0	9
Manchester	7.0	0.00	2	8
Norwich	7.0	0.00	2	7
Oxford	8.8	0.01	1	9

Moon and Sun

MOON RISE: 12:22pm, SET: 4:43pm
 SUN RISE: 6:23am, SET: 8:23pm
 EQUINOX: 21:00pm
 NEXT TIDE: DRAIN: 2:45pm

So how will Brown pay?

Continued from Page One
 extent of the crisis facing the country.
 His latest figures showed that seven out of ten companies are not paying into a staff pension scheme.
 The former head of the CBI, whose conclusions were rubbished by the Treasury just four months ago, recommended raising the state retirement age to 68 for both men and women by 2050, a new compulsory state savings system for workers without a pension, and a return to the earnings link, which was scrapped by Margaret Thatcher in 1981.
 Campaigners say the basic pension for a couple, which goes up to £134.75 this week, would be more than £30 higher if the link had stayed.
 Restoring it will force Mr Brown to abandon his reliance on means-testing to get cash to poorer pensioners.
 His Pension Credit scheme has been heavily criticised for being so complicated that many eligible people do not claim it.
 Under a deal agreed with Downing Street, Mr Brown will limit the spread of income-related benefits to the poorest third of pensioners.
 Lord Turner's proposals also address the crisis over company pension schemes.
 His report says fewer than three in ten firms are now contributing any money to a pension scheme for employees.
 Lord Turner wants a National Pensions Saving Scheme in which workers would be automatically enrolled at the age of 21, although they would retain the right to opt out.
 Individuals would contribute 5 per cent of their pay to the scheme — 1 per cent would come



Don't believe a word they say - I'm 295 now and I still haven't received my pension!

Acceptance was surprise

from the Government as tax relief - while employers would pay 3 per cent.
 There would be help for smaller firms, but the idea has provoked widespread alarm in business circles.
 The overall impact of the Turner package would see people having to work longer and save more.
 The pensions crisis was deepened by Mr Brown's notorious

£5billion-a-year raid on pension funds in 1997. It crippled what had been the best private occupational pension system in Europe. In recent years, thousands of generous final salary pensions have been replaced by less lucrative schemes.
 The Chancellor's acceptance of almost all the recommendations in Lord Turner's report — after weeks of behind-the-scenes rows with Number 10 over the cost of it — came as a surprise at Westminster.
 There were immediate suggestions that Mr Brown had backed away from a confrontation with Tony Blair on an issue that had threatened to dominate the next election.

Comment - Page 14

Brown and Blair, two guilty men: Page 6

MMR plea as school is hit by measles cases

DOCTORS last night warned parents to make sure their children were vaccinated against measles after an outbreak of the disease at a Scottish primary school.
 Three adults - including two of the school's dinner ladies - were yesterday confirmed as having the disease.
 Nine children were also being tested amid fears they had been infected with the highly contagious virus.
 The outbreak comes just days after a 13-year-old boy from Manchester died of the disease - the first measles death in the UK for more than a decade.
 The latest outbreak is centred around Kirkcowan Primary School in Dumfries and Galloway.
 Dinner ladies Norma Gray and Caroline Stewart and Mrs Stewart's brother Keith Gordon have all been confirmed as sufferers.
 Mrs Stewart is 39, and the others are also in their late 30s. An 11-year-old girl had been diagnosed as a 'probable' case and eight other children, aged between three and 15, are being treated as possible victims.
 A relative of Mrs Gray said: 'A woman Norma worked with had measles. Norma had not been immunised, but never gave it a second thought because she assumed she had.'
 'She became ill with a sore throat and when she came out in spots she knew it was measles.'
 NHS Dumfries and Galloway is now working to establish whether there are any further cases. Officials said

none of the known sufferers had been immunised and urged parents to take urgent action.
 It is believed four of the affected youngsters have been offered the MMR jab, which can still give some protection if administered within 72 hours of exposure to the virus.
 However, their parents are still refusing to give permission.
 Dr David Breen, consultant in public health medicine, said: 'We are asking them to review their decision.'
 Measles used to be a common feature of childhood, but was virtually wiped out when the MMR combined vaccine was introduced.
 However when the jab was linked to a rise in childhood autism, many parents refused to allow their children to be inoculated.
 Dr Martin Donaghy, medical director of Health Protection Scotland, said: 'Measles can be very severe and lead to complications such as meningitis, brain problems and, although fatalities are rare, even death.'
 'All children under five should be given the MMR injection.'
 g.macaskill@daily-mail.co.uk

Lottery results

Daily Play numbers
1, 9, 10, 11, 20, 22, 24
 No winners of the £30,000 top prize

Never

Jack and Sir Sean bury the hatchet to share a stage for Tartan Week

By Jonathan Brocklebank
 IT is the event that once brought you Jack McConnell in a rather too fetching pin-striped kilt... and Sir Sean Connery in an almighty grump.
 'Never again,' both seemed to mutter as the dust settled after Dressed to Kilt 2004 - the New York fashion show that both launched and torpedoed the First Minister's modelling career.
 But then, as former 007 actor Sir Sean once counselled, Never Say Never Again.
 Last year's Tartan Week may have had Scotland's most senior politician and its most famous senior citizen posted missing presumed sulking. But 2005 was the year of the all-star sequel.
 The uneasy double act of Scottish Labour leader and SNP celebrity supporter-in-chief had kept everyone guessing for weeks. Would their long suspected mutual antipathy show behind the glacial smiles? Would the Bond star offer a bonecrusher handshake? Was Jack McConnell going to wear a miniskirt again?
 The good news for Mr McConnell is no one thought his kilt looked like a skirt this time. Nor did anyone laugh at his charcoal grey Argyle jacket and matching waistcoat, which replaced the puffed-up gillie's shirt of 2004. Certainly, not a soul remarked that he may be showing a little more leg than was strictly fitting.
 If anything, fashion experts concluded, this year's kilt may be a little on the long side. But otherwise, no problem at all. Well, except for the colour scheme.
 'Grey does tend to be a little, er, grey,' remarked one colour consultant. But the ensemble, designed by Galashiels-based Lochcarron, clearly gave Mr McConnell the confidence to confront the issues of two years ago head on.
 He said: 'I'm very proud to once again be showing off the kilts of one of Scotland's finest companies here.'

'He played it safe to avoid another fashion faux pas'
 In New York, Scotland's designers are increasingly making a big impact internationally and the Dressed to Kilt fashion show gives a special opportunity to show off their work. As First Minister, I'm always proud to play my part.'
 Yesterday Michaela Jedinak, who runs top London style consultancy Joy of Colour, gave her verdict: 'This time he seems to have thought: "better too long than too short". He has been much better advised on what to wear than two years ago. Understandably this year he was playing safe in order to avoid another fashion faux pas. But he would have looked good with a stronger more colourful pattern in his kilt, like Sean Connery's. Maybe he will be more colourful next time.'
 'This time his body language is different and you can tell he doesn't want to be in the spotlight.'
 Neither, at times, did Sir Sean, who has just had kidney surgery to remove a benign tumour. He is said to have described the Scottish Executive's recent efforts to promote Scotland abroad as 'a joke'.
 After one of his own jokes fell flat with an American journalist, Sir Sean asked whether the writer understood English. But the actor perked up as wife Michelle hitched up his kilt to reveal a flash of leg for the cameras. And he seemed to enjoy the catwalk show featuring fellow actor Brian Cox, fellow golfer Sam Torrance and fellow SNP giant Alex Salmond wearing a kilt for the first time in his adult life.
 Far more worrying than the Salmond kilt was the cowboy hat - either it was very small or the MP's head is very big. Wisely, he threw it into the crowd before everyone got a proper look.
 Other catwalk stars included pop star Darius Danesh, racing driver Sir Stirling Moss, actresses Bebe Neuwirth and Tatum O'Neal and Miss Scotland, Aisling Friel.
 Meanwhile, American billionaire Donald Trump wasted no time in presenting Sir Sean with the first honorary membership of his proposed new golf course at Balmacleit in Aberdeenshire.
 Outrage at £3.2m 'bribe' - Page 17

say never again...



Wee Jack and Big Tam: Jack McConnell and Sir Sean Connery share the stage at the New York fashion show



Kilted heroes: Sam Torrance and Darius Danesh on the catwalk



PICTURE: SANDY YOUNG

Scots wahey: A stetson-toting Alex Salmond and Aisling Friel get into the Tartan Week spirit

P.S.



A cheeky moment as actor Brian Cox lets New York in on the answer to the old mystery: What does a Scotsman wear under his kilt?

