



House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

31 August 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

The cost-of-living crisis is the most devastating economic situation the UK has faced in decades. Every day I am being further inundated with messages from constituents who are concerned they will not be able to heat their homes or properly feed their families this winter. Action is needed to support households, in particular those on low incomes, who are increasingly vulnerable to the impact of rising energy bills. The UK Government must come out of hiding and implement a credible package of support. This cannot wait until the Tory leadership contest has been concluded, valuable time is being needlessly wasted.

In Scotland, research by the University of York has shown that if urgent action is not taken, 72.8% of people will be in fuel poverty by January 2023. That would mean four million Scots having to make impossible choices this winter. While few will escape some impact of the cost-of-living crisis, these impacts are not being experienced at the same level for all families. The focus must be on providing targeted support to those most adversely impacted. I strongly urge you to implement the following proposals:

- Scrap the upcoming increase to the energy price cap
- Double the energy grant to £800 and ensure all payments are made by the beginning of October
- Introduce an energy price cap for Small and Medium Enterprises
- Bring in a further windfall tax and extend it to include all large businesses who made significant profits during the pandemic

The Scottish Government is using its financial powers to maximise the support available to households, but the most effective financial levers currently sit with the UK Government. If you are not willing to implement the recommendations above, I strongly encourage you to transfer the necessary financial powers to the Scottish Government so it can provide the support required.

The focus so far has rightly been on the upcoming impact on households, but urgent action is also required to support business, particularly small and medium enterprises. A recent Bank of England monetary policy report estimated that the UK will likely move into a recession later this year. This is likely to bring rising unemployment and sharply falling household incomes. This, coupled with rising energy bills, will cripple all manner of businesses in our communities, from restaurants to manufacturers.

The current crisis requires clear, focused and determined leadership and co-operation to develop and deliver - at pace - a package of interventions to protect households and businesses. The current inaction is no longer sustainable, enough time has already been wasted and ministers cannot keep passing the buck. Parliament must immediately be recalled so we can get a grip on this crisis and find substantive ways to help our constituents. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Carol Monaghan MP

**Carol Monaghan**

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