



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Climate

Department for Business, Energy &
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Website: www.gov.uk

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Dear Carol,

Thank you for your letter of 31 August addressed to the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, regarding rising energy bills and the cost of living. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio. Please accept my sincere apologies of the delay in this response.

I recognise the difficult position that many households are in with the impact of rising energy prices. These rises are largely driven by increases in wholesale gas prices worldwide. However, there are a number of measures in place to support consumers through this winter and beyond.

Protecting consumers, especially vulnerable consumers, is a top priority for the Government. With this in mind, we are monitoring and assessing the impact of price increases on consumers and coordinating work across regulated sectors to support households impacted.

Energy suppliers are obligated to provide appropriate support for those struggling to pay their bills by setting up an appropriate repayment plan based on the customer's ability to pay, and by directing the customer to further support services.

To help people with the costs of energy, the Government has announced a package of support measures:

- The Energy Price Guarantee will limit the amount consumers can be charged for each unit of gas and electricity used in their home. It will apply from 1 October and will fix the unit cost at the equivalent of a £2500 annual bill for a typical household with average gas and electricity use. This is automatic and applies to all households.
- This is in addition to the £400 energy bills discount for all households this winter. The Energy Bills Support Scheme discount will apply directly to households in England, Scotland and Wales with equivalent support paid to people in Northern Ireland. This will be paid over 6 months from October 2022 and does not need to be paid back. Further information on the scheme and how it will be paid is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer#full-publication-update-history>.
- This is in addition to the previously announced £150 reduction in Council Tax bills for all households in Bands A-D in England, which does not need to be re-paid.

- £144 million of discretionary funding for Local Authorities to support households who need support but are not eligible for the Council Tax reduction.
- A £650 Cost of Living Payment, to be made in two installments, for those on certain means tested benefits.
- Pensioner households that receive winter Fuel Payments will receive an extra £300 this year to help them cover the rising cost of energy this winter.
- Those across the UK who receive certain disability benefits will receive a one-off payment of £150 in September.
- An extra £500 million of local support, via the Household Support Fund, which will be extended from this October to March 2023.

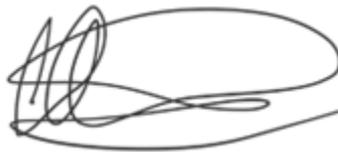
This is on top of other schemes like the Warm Home Discount to support the most vulnerable and low-income households. In addition, Winter Fuel Payments and Cold Weather Payments are available to those in receipt of qualifying benefits.

More information on what the Government is doing to protect consumers can be found online here: helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/.

For further support options or benefits that your constituent may be eligible for, Citizens Advice is a great government-funded advice service that can provide more specific help and guidance to people and can be contacted on 0808 223 1133.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope you find this response useful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Climate