



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
HM Treasury,
The Correspondence & Enquiry Unit,
1 Horse Guards Road,
London,
SW1A 2HQ

Our Ref: LE29334

7 August 2024

Dear Rachel,

Re: Winter Fuel Payment

Further to your announcement on Monday 29th July 2024 regarding changes to entitlement for the Winter Fuel Payment, including the scrapping of the Payment for pensioners who are not in receipt of Pension Credit.

As you can imagine, people in my area are concerned about the impact that a restriction to the Winter Fuel Payment will have on some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Many people have raised their concerns with me and asked for the decision to be reversed. This is my reason for writing, to urge you to reconsider.

I would be grateful for your comments on the following:

- Analysis by Age UK suggests there are currently around 1 million pensioners whose weekly incomes are less than £50 above the eligibility level for Pension Credit (less than £218.25 per week for a single pensioner or under £332.95 for couples). What assessment has the Government made about the impact of this policy change for this income group and what consideration has been made to raise the Pension Credit entitlement level to ensure this group is supported this winter? (Please see here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/articles/2024/age-uk-responds-to-the-chancellors-announcement-to-means-test-the-winter-fuel-payment/>)
- What assessment has been made about the impact this will have on costs to the NHS when it comes to managing cold weather related diseases for pensioners not entitled to Pension Credit?
- Age UK state that the means-testing of the Winter Fuel Payment will impact as many as 2 million pensioners who “badly need the money to stay warm this winter” and who will now “not receive it and will be in serious trouble as a result.” What is your response to Age UK’s statement and concern on behalf of pensioners across the country? (<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/campaigning/save-the-winter-fuel-payment/>)
- Please could you provide the Equality Impact Assessment supporting this change of

policy so I can assess the impact of the policy on protected groups, such as age and disability?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Evans', written on a light grey rectangular background.

Dr Luke Evans
Member of Parliament for Hinckley and Bosworth