



17 June 2022

BY EMAIL ONLY

info@endfuelpoverty.org.uk

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor,

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition welcomes the support you outlined in the House of Commons on 26 May 2022.

Two important principles have now been established:

- That financial support for those in fuel poverty will be needed in the short-term
- That the Government has identified the means with which to fund this significant support

However, we have heard concerns from our Members that there are important questions which remain to be answered by your officials in relation to the support on offer.

There are ten key areas we need clarification on:

1. How will the scheme work to provide funding to the millions of people on pre-payment meters given the challenges of previously used voucher systems?
2. What steps can be taken to support those in the Private Rented Sector to ensure landlords pass on the full savings of bills (especially in Multiple Occupancy Households)?
3. What support will be available to the estimated 200,000 people living in Park Homes?
4. How can financial help reach those households who do not receive electricity bills?
5. What will the impact of financial support be on the care charges disabled, elderly and vulnerable people are assessed on?
6. What will the impact of support be on the benefits cap and the minimum income guarantee?
7. How will access to the Household Support Fund be made easier and consistent across the country?

8. What other steps will the Government be taking to ensure full take up of benefits this winter?
9. How can those living off-gas and people on heat networks be better supported by the Price Cap?
10. What further steps can be taken to support those households already in fuel debt as a result of recent price increases?

We would also request re-assurances that customers will no longer be penalised for the failures in the energy market through standing charges or other costs added to energy bills.

Members of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition have ideas to help address the above questions and we would welcome the opportunity to facilitate a meeting with you and Coalition Members to discuss the proposed solutions.

We are aware that you will have already heard from our Members that we need urgent, co-ordinated, action to improve the energy efficiency of our homes. We would like to take this opportunity to support these calls and also ask you to prioritise funding for a skills strategy to deliver the “retrofit army” needed to deliver the improvements needed.

We would also request that you recognise that the support provided will only seek to prevent additional homes entering fuel poverty (based on the predicted Ofgem price cap) and stop many of those in fuel poverty becoming utterly destitute. It will not fundamentally improve the situation of the 6m-plus households already in fuel poverty.

Therefore, we would urge you to make further statements to set out further financial support for people in fuel poverty this winter, announce funding for the action needed to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and ensure we have a secure, renewable-led, domestic energy supply.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Francis, co-ordinator, on behalf of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition.

CC:

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Work & Pensions

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Rt Hon Mel Stride MP, Chair, Treasury Select Committee

Darren Jones MP, Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP, Chair, Work & Pensions Select Committee

Clive Betts MP, Chair, LUHC Select Committee

** The End Fuel Poverty Coalition is a broad group of over 60 anti-poverty, energy, environmental and health campaigners, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations and is also supported by academics and industry experts.*

For more information, visit <https://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk/>