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From: **Simon Francis** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, 16 Jun 2025 at 17:06
Subject: Re: Parliament briefing request - winter mortality
To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies for the delay in replying and missing your deadline - the last few weeks have been incredibly busy with Comprehensive Spending Review issues and the Coalition has very limited resources.

I recently gave evidence to the Work & Pensions Select Committee and referenced some stats on the number of pensioners dying last winter. I've added this to a [pdf](#) which is publicly available. The source data for this is contained in [this](#) Google sheet - as you can see pulling winter by winter data together is difficult.

I also questioned ONS and DWP about the Pension Minister's [recent comments](#) about excess *winter deaths*. ONS have told me (via [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#)) that this data for last winter is not available and the calculation of excess winter deaths remains under review. DWP has not responded to my email.

More broadly (as this affects more households than pensioner ones), we have used the excess winter deaths figures and have noticed some trends which are on this webpage:

<https://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk/about-fuel-poverty/excess-winter-deaths-and-fuel-poverty/>

Since ONS issued its review we've not been updating this work.

I think broadly it now would be better to look at the number of - and causes of - deaths rather than statistical models (which EWD is). As we saw during the pandemic, every life is a meaningful statistic and should be treated as such.

We note the latest Government health inequalities report [says that](#) "Extreme temperatures result in increased mortality. There were nearly 2,300 estimated heat-related deaths during summer 2023, and an estimated 5,500 cold-related deaths during winter 2022 to 2023."

It would be useful to have access to the source data for this to see how they got to the number.

What we'd like to see is winter (and extreme heat periods) to be treated as the health emergency it is and for better reporting to be in place. It should be easier for the public sector and charities to see how hospital

admissions and deaths are comparable to similar weeks in each year. And we should have faster reporting, so that we aren't getting the health inequalities report for winter 22/23 18 months after it has happened!

Sorry for the casual nature of these notes, but I hope they prove useful and we look forward to seeing the report. Do keep us posted on your progress and let me know if it would be useful to discuss?

Best wishes,
Simon

On Tue, 3 Jun 2025 at 19:17, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Simon,

I am writing to you from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). POST is an office of both Houses of Parliament, which provides independent and balanced analysis of research evidence related to public policy issues.

We are currently preparing a briefing for MPs and Peers on winter mortality (please see attached scope).

We would like to invite the End Fuel Poverty Coalition to submit a written contribution to the briefing. We are particularly interested in hearing about evidence on the impact of fuel poverty on health outcomes and winter mortality/excess winter deaths, the effectiveness of current policies and interventions to tackle this issue and policy considerations for the future.

If the End Fuel Poverty Coalition would like to contribute to this briefing, I would be grateful if you could please email me your written contribution as soon as possible. You are also welcome to signpost us to any relevant literature/reports that you feel should be included in the briefing. Due to our publication schedule, we have a short turnaround time - all submissions will need to be received by **13th June 2025**.

Thank you very much. Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) Fellow

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bridging research and policy

As part of our remit, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) may make a record of parties who have shown interest in our work. The record includes personal data that have been provided to us such as name and contact details, expertise, institutional affiliations, topics of interest, and participation in our events. These records allow us to maintain a list of contacts for future work and collaborations. You can request we amend or delete your data at any time. For more information on how we handle personal data please read [our privacy policy](#).

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