



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Amanda Solloway MP  
Minister for Energy Consumers &  
Affordability

**Department for Energy Security  
& Net Zero**

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MCSL2023/01825

27 March 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email dated 13 December 2022, addressed to His Majesty's Treasury, on behalf of those living with Parkinsons within your constituency and the increased cost of living. Your correspondence has been passed to this Department and I am responding on its behalf. I apologise for the delay in response.

I appreciate the difficulties many households are currently facing with energy bills, and in particular how this is affecting those who are most vulnerable. With this in mind, the Government has introduced energy support schemes to assist households with the additional costs of energy this winter. Support has been in the form of the Energy Bill Support Scheme (EBSS) which provides domestic energy customers with £400 in instalments through the winter, and the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) which subsidises the price of energy units to keep average bills at around £2500 for the year. Customers in Northern Ireland and those who use alternative fuels can also benefit from support.

In the Autumn Statement last year, the Government announced the EPG will be extended between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, bringing a typical household bill to around £3,000 per year in Great Britain during that time. There is also an on-going review of the EPG which will look at ways to protect the most vulnerable from rising energy costs in the future.

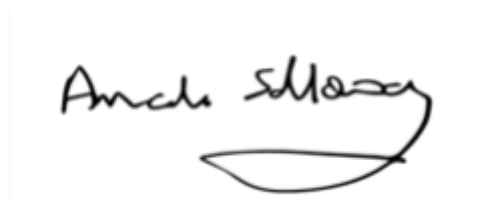
There is additional support available for low-income and vulnerable households. They can contact local authorities and energy suppliers to enquire whether they are eligible to receive free energy efficiency improvements. From spring 2023, all households in the lower council tax bands (A-D in England, A-E in Scotland, and A-C in Wales) in poorly insulated homes (with an Energy Performance Certificate of D or below) will be eligible for Government funded energy efficiency measures via the Energy Company Obligation. By contacting energy suppliers hundreds of thousands of households will have the opportunity to receive this support, which will save an average of £310 per year.

Furthermore, a Cost-of-Living Payment of £900 will be provided to households on means-tested benefits. A payment of £300 will be provided to pensioner households, and a £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment will be provided to individuals on

disability benefits. The Government will also raise benefits in 2023/24, including working age benefits and the State Pension in line with inflation from April 2023, ensuring they increase by more than 10%.

With these measures it is our intention to provide the most support to those who are most financially vulnerable to the increased cost of energy, and as I hope you understand, this will include those with Parkinsons.

Thank you again for writing. I hope you and your constituents find this response helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Solloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

**Amanda Solloway MP**  
**Minister for Energy Consumers & Affordability**