



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Our Ref: GH/DA48877
(please quote on all correspondence)

3 February 2023

Dear Chancellor,

We are writing to you as a cross-party group of MPs and Peers to urge you to provide a longer-term solution for disabled people affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

As you will know, the cost-of-living crisis is having a significant impact on communities across the UK. The crisis however is disproportionately impacting disabled people. Universal non-targeted measures, such as the Energy Price Guarantee, do not directly acknowledge those who need to use more energy as a result of their condition or impairment. Research from the charity Scope found that a third of disabled adults have said their impairment or condition has a significant impact on their energy costs. This has led to half of disabled people in Scope's survey saying they won't use heating this winter even when cold, and a third saying they will have to skip meals.

We welcome the Government's decision to provide further cost-of-living payments but these must come this winter to prevent disabled people from falling into debt and destitution. Disabled people simply cannot wait until the spring for further support.

To protect and support the most at-risk disabled people going forward, we are calling on the Government to urgently establish an energy social tariff for disabled customers. This would provide discounted rates to ensure disabled people in greatest need have access to the energy they need, and could be achieved by using the Priority Services Register and DWP data. A social tariff would provide the necessary tailoring to recognise and more accurately address the disadvantages faced by disabled people.

We would be grateful for a response on the Government's consideration of a social tariff in supporting disabled people this winter and beyond. We would also urge the Government to expedite the cost-of-living payments.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Abrahams MP
Peter Aldous MP
Wera Hobhouse MP
Caroline Lucas MP
Sammy Wilson MP

Anne McLaughlin MP

Debbie Abrahams MP is proud to represent the people of
Alexandra, Lees, Saddleworth, Shaw & Crompton, St Mary's, St James' and Waterhead

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