



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

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

27 April 2023

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 28 March to the Chancellor of the Exchequer enclosing correspondence from your constituents regarding the cost of living for families with disabled children. I am replying as the Minister responsible for public spending.

The Government recognises that the rising cost of living has presented additional financial challenges to many people, especially to the most vulnerable members of society, such as disabled people and people with long-term health conditions. That is why the Government is taking decisive action to support households while ensuring we act in a fiscally responsible way.

If any of your constituents' children have additional costs associated with their disability then they may be eligible for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children. At Autumn Statement 2022, the Government announced that it will provide a further Disability Cost of Living Payment of £150 in 2023/24 to people in receipt of extra-costs disability benefits such as DLA for children. This is additional to the £150 payment for recipients of disability benefits already announced as part of the cost of living package in May 2022.

At Spring Budget 2023, to go further to protect struggling families, the Government is extending energy support by keeping the Energy Price Guarantee at £2,500 for the next three months from April. This is saving households an additional £160, bringing total Government support for energy bills to £1,500 for a typical household since October 2022.

Alongside this, further steps are being taken by the Government to support households with the rising cost of living by:

- ending the premium paid by over 4 million households using prepayment meters across the UK,
- introducing 30 hours of free childcare per week for working parents with children aged 9 months up to 3 years in England, alongside a substantial uplift to the hourly rate paid to providers and market reforms, and
- cancelling the planned increase in fuel duty and keeping rates at current levels for the next 12 months.

This is in addition to the benefits uprating and support for vulnerable households announced at the Autumn Statement, which included new Cost of Living Payments in 2023/24, helping more than 8 million UK households on eligible means tested benefits, 8 million pensioner households and 6 million people across the UK on eligible disability benefits.

The Household Support Fund (HSF) may be able to provide additional support beyond existing measures. The HSF is a discretionary fund designed to help households in need of additional further support beyond existing Government support. The Government has provided £2.5 billion total funding for the HSF and extended the fund's end date from October 2022 to March 2024. Delivery of the HSF, including design and eligibility criteria, rests with upper tier local authorities, who will be able to advise your constituents on how they can access this support.

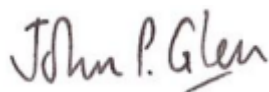
More details can also be found online at:

helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk.

Taken together, support to households to help with higher bills is worth £94 billion, or £3,300 per household on average, across 2022/23 and 2023/24. The Government's successful economic strategy will provide further help. The Office for Budget Responsibility, the Government's independent forecaster, has confirmed that the Government will meet the Prime Minister's priority to halve inflation - falling from 10.7 per cent at the end of last year to 2.9 per cent by the end of 2023.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John P. Glen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

THE RT HON JOHN GLEN MP