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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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15 November 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 27 October to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituents, who contacted you asking that benefits be uprated in line with inflation, especially for those diagnosed with cancer. I am replying as the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is currently conducting his statutory annual review of State Pensions and benefit rates. The outcome of that review will be announced in due course, but I am grateful for the feedback that you have shared. Any new rates of benefits/pensions will become payable from April 2023.

With regard to the rise in the cost of living, on 26 May, we announced a range of cost of living measures to provide financial assistance to millions of households across the UK, including over £15 billion of additional support, targeted at those with the greatest need. This builds on the over £22 billion previously announced. The £650 one-off Cost of Living Payment will target support at low-income households on means-tested benefits, and will support over 8 million households across the UK.

We are also providing additional support to help disabled people with the extra costs they will face. Those eligible will receive a one-off disability Cost of Living Payment of £150 from 20 September.

The Energy Price Guarantee is supporting millions of households with rising energy costs, and the Chancellor made clear that it will continue to do so from now until April next year. This is in addition to the help that we are making available to most domestic electricity customers in Great Britain, with a £400 non-repayable discount to eligible households that will be provided through the expansion of the Energy Bills Support Scheme. If anyone is off-grid then they may be able to access the Household Support Fund.

We are also providing extra support to pensioners across the UK. Over 8 million pensioner households will receive an extra one-off £300 Winter Fuel Payment this year to help cover the rising cost of energy.

For those that are not eligible for the means-tested Cost of Living Payment, or for families that still need additional support, the Government is providing an additional £500 million to help households with the cost of essentials, bringing the total funding for this support to £1.5 billion. In England, this will take the form of an extension to the Household Support Fund, backed by £421 million.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to write and I hope your constituents will find this reply helpful.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,



Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work