

Amanda Hack MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9th August 2024

Dear Mrs Hack,

RE: Winter Fuel Payment

I am writing to you as the County Councillor for the Coalville North Division, one of the eight divisions within the constituency of North West Leicestershire which you represent.

Several elderly constituents have reached out to me, expressing concerns about difficulties in obtaining a response from you regarding the Chancellor's recent announcement on scrapping the Winter Fuel Payments. According to the announcement, only pensioners receiving pension credit will be eligible, which will significantly impact some of the most vulnerable members of my community. Currently, around 18,000 pensioners in North West Leicestershire benefit from the Winter Fuel Payment, but this number will now be drastically reduced. Many of these pensioners will miss out simply because they have modest private pensions or savings.

While it is true that some pensioners do not need the Winter Fuel Payment. Having spoken with Age UK this week, they have informed me that approximately one million pensioners have a weekly income less than £50 above the pension credit eligibility threshold. These are the individuals who will face the harsh reality of choosing between heating and eating this winter.

Furthermore, according to figures provided to me by Age UK, as many as two million pensioners, who desperately need this money to stay warm this winter will no longer be eligible, a good proportion of whom live in my home of North West Leicestershire.

Many retired constituents in my division have worked hard all their lives to save a modest amount for their financial security during retirement. The reckless implementation of this new policy effectively punishes these individuals, making their lives unnecessarily difficult.

Just five weeks ago, local residents elected you to be a strong voice for them, and as stated on your office window, to "put more money back in your pocket." I am sure that I do not need to remind you that sometimes this means you must prioritise the needs of your constituents over your own political party and their punitive policies.

Will you stand up for your elderly residents? Will you speak out against this policy that will harm our vulnerable population, or will you follow the party line?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Craig Smith CC
Leicestershire County Council
Coalville North Division

