



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 7048

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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about support for elderly people with the cost of heating.

I recognise the contribution pensioners have made, and continue to make, to British society. We must ensure that everyone has security and dignity in their retirement. My colleagues in government have committed to keeping the Winter Fuel Payment, ensuring that older people have the security and dignity they deserve. This means £200 will continue to be paid to households where someone has reached State Pension age and is under age 80, rising to £300 where households contain someone aged 80 and over.

Cold Weather Payments are another element of the support available. A person can qualify for a Cold Weather Payment if they are in receipt of Pension Credit, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Universal Credit, or Support for Mortgage Interest. The scheme runs from 1st November to 31st March each year.

The Met Office has assigned each eligible household to one of 94 weather stations that is most representative of their climate, accounting for topography and whether the surrounding areas are urban or rural. If a cold weather payment is triggered at a weather station, the eligible households receive an automatic payment of £25.

There are many other benefits available to pensioners, including free bus passes and free prescriptions. The Warm Home Discount provides over one million vulnerable pensioners with a £140 rebate on their energy bills.

I would also add that as a result of the 'triple lock', the value of the full basic State Pension is now £2,050 more than it was a decade ago. This year, owing to a statistical anomaly as a result of the Covid pandemic, the metric for average earnings cannot be used to calculate the Triple Lock. Therefore, the State Pension is reverting to a Double Lock, whereby it is raised by the highest of inflation or 2.5%. This means pensioners will continue to be protected from any rises in prices. This is a temporary measure, and we will revert to the Triple Lock in 2022.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

Website: www.heatonharris.com



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