



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about cost of living support for carers.

I and my colleagues in government recognise and appreciate the vital role played by unpaid carers now more than ever, and I understand that this is an extremely important issue for many carers. Carer's Allowance is designed to provide a measure of financial support for people who give up the opportunity of full-time employment in order to care for a severely disabled person. It must be stressed it is not a carer's wage or a payment for the services of caring, nor is it intended to replace lost or forgone earnings in their entirety.

I would encourage carers to check their eligibility for additional support, such as Universal Credit. Universal Credit can include an additional amount for carers who provide care of 35 hours or more each week for a severely disabled person.

I welcome that the Government is taking targeted action on the cost of living, as announced by the Chancellor on 26th May.

More than six million people in receipt of regular disability benefits will receive a one-off £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment. This will be paid directly to around 6 million people from September.

In addition to this, more than eight million households in receipt of means-tested benefits including Universal Credit will receive each instalment of the £650 Cost of Living Payment. This will be paid in two instalments from July and the Autumn.

This targeted support is in addition to the universal £400 energy bills grant. This will be a cash grant paid to all households and will not have to be paid back. This replaces the repayable £200 support rebate, which has been cancelled.

In addition to this, the Government is spending an additional £500 million on discretionary cost of living support for households from October 2022 via the Household Support Fund.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY