



December 2023

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about Government support for pensioners.

The Government is fully committed to enabling older people to live with the dignity and respect they deserve. In April, the State Pension was increased by 10.1%, in line with inflation. As a result, the full yearly amount of the basic State Pension will be over £3,050 higher, in cash terms, than in 2010.

Regarding the uprating of the State Pension, the Government is maintaining the Triple Lock in full for 2024/25, meaning that in April 2024, the basic State Pension, new State Pension, and Pension Credit minimum guarantee will be uprated in line with September 2023 average earnings growth- 8.5%.

I note all the concerns about pensioners that live alone, and I am confident that the Government is providing substantial support for pensioners through the welfare system. The Government provides free bus passes and prescriptions; Winter Fuel Payments; and Cold Weather Payments for those in receipt of Pension Credit. The Government is also providing targeted support through the £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment, to be paid to all households in receipt of Winter Fuel Payments.

Furthermore, all pensioners will benefit from the Government's Energy Price Guarantee (EPG). Although energy prices are currently below the level at which EPG payments would be made, it will remain in force until April 2024 to protect households from price spikes, putting in place a safety net for the most vulnerable.

An additional £1 billion of funding will be provided to extend the Household Support Fund (HSF) this financial year, bringing total funding to £2.5 billion. I welcome that since its launch in October 2021, the HSF has issued early 26 million awards to those in need of support.

In the case of West Northamptonshire, £5,199,257 has been allocated to support vulnerable people, including pensioners, with energy bills, and other related essentials.

I hope that this response reassures you that pensioners in the UK are being adequately supported and that the most vulnerable will continue to be protected over the winter months.



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
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Tel: 020 7219 7048

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY