

Minute Item 8.(ii)

From: Navendu Mishra MP <Navendu.mishra.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 11 November 2024 17:28
To: Damian Eaton <damian.eaton@stockport.gov.uk>
Subject: External: Reply from your MP

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Dear Damian Eaton,

Thank you for contacting me about the future of the Winter Fuel Payment and support for pensioners particularly in light of the new data from Age UK and/or Independent Age. I understand your worries about the impact of these changes on pensioners in Stockport and across the North West.

I support maintaining the triple lock so that the value of the State Pension is protected. I am therefore pleased to confirm that the value of the State Pension and Pension Credit will rise by 4.1% in April 2025. This is an above inflation increase and it means the new State Pension will increase by more than £470 a year.

I also want to see greater take-up of Pension Credit. I note that the Government is committed to working with older people's charities and local authorities to raise awareness of this important benefit, which provides support to the poorest pensioners. I support doing so because it is vital that everyone receives the money to which they are entitled, especially pensioners. I also strongly support the extension of the Household Support Fund, which will provide local councils in England with money to help support vulnerable people in their areas, including with the cost of heating.

However, given the extremely challenging financial situation inherited from the previous Government, the new Government had to make the difficult decision to provide Winter Fuel Payments only to those pensioners who claim Pension Credit. While I recognise that you would like to see a different approach, there was a projected overspend in the public finances of £22 billion for this year. If unaddressed this would have increased the budget deficit for the current financial year by 25%.

I believe that, given these circumstances, the responsible thing to do is to fix the foundations of our economy and bring back economic stability. The new Government is committed to reducing debt as a share of the economy. This means that challenging trade-offs were required.

I hope that, with the promised Government assistance, local authorities will reach the many pensioners eligible for Pension Credit who could still benefit from Winter Fuel Payments going forward. Again, I would urge those who are struggling with heating costs or other bills to reach out to Stockport Council - [Cost of Living - Support](#)

Please be assured I will continue to bear in mind the points you have raised. Thank you once again for contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



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Member of Parliament for Stockport



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