

**Victoria
Atkins MP**

SUPPORT
with the



COST *of* LIVING

Dear Resident,

As we enter the colder months, I know the cost of living and the rising costs of energy is worrying many people. Recently, I hosted a Winter Support Summit with local organisations across the area to discuss how we can work together to help people access support in the coming months.

One of the main themes from the summit was that there is a wide range of support, however, we need to make it easier for people to access this support. That is why I have created this guide, in order to assist in signposting people to help including the action the government is taking, to help households with energy bills.

- The £400 energy bills rebate available to every household
- Keeping energy bills as low as possible this winter with the Energy Price Guarantee

- £300 cost of living support for pensioners who receive the Winter Fuel Payment
- Support for households which are not on the grid.

To learn more about the support you might be eligible for, please visit helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk or call **01507 601111**.

Alternatively, you can contact me directly using the details at the end of this guide.

I hope you will find the information useful.

Yours sincerely,



Victoria Atkins MP



Universal Support

SUPPORT FOR THOSE ON MEANS-TESTED BENEFITS

Every household on means-tested benefits will receive a £650 cost-of-living payment in 2022 and a £900 cost-of-living payment in 2023, supporting low-income households.

This includes all households receiving the following support;

- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit

To check whether you are eligible for this funding, visit gov.uk/cost-of-living or call **01507 601111**.

If you receive Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance, you could receive £150 in 2022 and again in 2023.

From April 2023, benefits will also increase in line with inflation of 10.1%. For an average family on Universal Credit this will be an uplift of around £600.

For information on the Energy Price Guarantee, the £400 energy bill rebate and support for households which are not on the gas grid, visit helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk.

SUPPORT FOR PENSIONERS

If you're of State Pension Age and on a low income you could qualify for Pension Credit.

The average Pension Credit payment is worth more than £3,000 a year and it is possible to qualify even if you own your own home or have savings.

From April 2023, Pension Credit will rise by 10.1% in line with inflation which is worth up to £1,470 for a couple and £960 for a single pensioner. The State Pension will also increase in line with inflation by 10.1% - an £870 increase.

Check if you are eligible by visiting gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator or call **01507 601111**.

From the autumn, eight million pensioner households who receive the Winter Fuel Payment will also receive an extra, one-off Pensioner Cost of Living Payment of £300. They will also receive another £300 one-off payment in 2023. You can find out more about the Winter Fuel Payment and Cost of Living Payment at gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment.

For advice on pensions visit government supported Pension Wise who offer free impartial guidance to over 50s at moneyhelper.org.uk/en/pensions-and-retirement/pension-wise or call for free on **0800 011 3797**.



Support Measures

GENERAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- **EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL:** For cost of living advice which is being updated regularly visit [e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/20624/Cost-of-Living-Support](https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/20624/Cost-of-Living-Support)
- **HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND:** [e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/18096/Household-Support-Fund](https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/18096/Household-Support-Fund)
- **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:** For information on various ways you can get help with your energy bills visit [citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
- **CITIZENS ADVICE LINDSEY:** For confidential and impartial advice visit [citizensadvice.org.uk/local/lindsey](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/lindsey) | 0808 2787904
- **ENTITLEDTO:** For advice on what benefits and support people may be able to receive visit [entitledto.co.uk/help/cost-of-living](https://www.entitledto.co.uk/help/cost-of-living)
- **AGE UK LINDSEY:** For information, advice and energy-saving products for older residents [ageuk.org.uk/lindsey](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/lindsey)
- **CARERS FIRST:** For personalised and tailored advice for unpaid carers visit [carersfirst.org.uk](https://www.carersfirst.org.uk) | 0300 303 1555 | hello@carersfirst.org.uk
- **RAF BENEVOLENT FUND:** Are providing support including grants to serving and ex-serving RAF personnel and their families. To find out more visit [rafbf.org](https://www.rafbf.org)
- **EDAN LINCS:** Support people suffering or fleeing domestic abuse. [edanlincs.org.uk](https://www.edanlincs.org.uk)
- **VODAFONE BROADBAND SOCIAL TARIFF:** For support with broadband connection visit [vodafone.co.uk/mobile/supporting-through-cost-of-living-crisis](https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/supporting-through-cost-of-living-crisis)
- **MONEY HELPER:** For impartial free guidance to make your money and pension choices clearer visit [moneyhelper.org.uk/en](https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en)



Local Support

LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

- LCF have a number of grants on their website, which are available to local individuals and business. [lincolnshirecf.co.uk/grants](https://www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk/grants)
- One scheme on the coast can offer help specifically with those struggling to stay warm. [In12cic.com/help-to-keep-warm](https://www.in12cic.com/help-to-keep-warm)

PLATFORM HOUSING WELLBEING FUND

- The £1.75 million Platform Wellbeing Fund is designed to support their customers. The Fund can help cover the cost of food, essential items such as school uniforms, energy and utility costs as well as helping to bridge the gap between a benefit application and first payment. [platformhq.com/wellbeing-fund](https://www.platformhq.com/wellbeing-fund)

SMART WRISTBANDS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

- A carer or relative of someone who is living with dementia who is mobile within the community can order a smart wristband for their loved one. The following information should be supplied when applying:
 - name of the person who will be wearing the wristband
 - their date of birth
 - their home address
 - Key contact's information – name, address and contact number.

dementiasafeguarding@lincs.police.uk

Local Support

WELLBEING LINCS

- Wellbeing Lincs is a countywide service, funded by Lincolnshire County Council supporting adults across Lincolnshire in a number of circumstances. wellbeinglincs.org

WARM SPACES

- ELDC have collated a list of warm spaces that people can go to through this winter. To view the list visit e-lindsey.gov.uk/warmspaces



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| Simple Energy Advice Line..... | 0800 444202 |
| Crime Stoppers..... | 0808 168911 |
| Mental Health Crisis Line | 0800 953 0110 |
| Energy Saving Trust..... | energysavingtrust.org.uk |
| East Lindsey District Council..... | 01507 60111 |
| National Domestic Abuse Helpline | 0808 2000 247 |
| Surviving Economic Abuse | survivingeconomicabuse.org |
| National Debt Line | 0800 8084000 |

Support from Energy Suppliers

EDF ENERGY CUSTOMER SUPPORT FUND

- This is a £6.4m fund set up by EDF for their customers to apply to if they experience hardship and need additional support and advice. charisgrants.com/partners/edf-energy

EON ENERGY FUND

- The Fund can be used to help pay E.ON energy bills. It can also help E.ON customers by providing replacement appliances such as cookers, fridges, fridge-freezers and washing machines – and also help to replace gas boilers. eonenenergyfund.com

BRITISH GAS ENERGY FUND

- British Gas have an Individual and Families Debt Write Off Fund, which is open to their own and other customers with an energy debt between £250 and £1500
- They also have an Energy Support Fund which British Gas customers can access if they have a fuel debt of £250 to £1,500. bget.org.uk/login.php



OCTO ASSIST FUND

- Octopus Energy have support available tailored to customer needs. octopus.energy/financial-assistance

SCOTTISH POWER HARDSHIP FUND

- community.scottishpower.co.uk/t5/Extra-Help/Hardship-Fund/ta-p/53

I hope that you found this guide useful, but if you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Victoria Atkins MP

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