



The Rt. Hon. Liz Kendall MP

Secretary of State for Work & Pensions
Department for Work & Pensions
6–12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

Dear Secretary of State,

Equity of the Household Support Fund

I trust this letter finds you well.

In Work & Pensions Questions on 7th October in the House of Commons, your Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State said the following in response to a question from our colleague, the Honourable Member for Bromsgrove, about the decision to axe universal Winter Fuel Payments this winter.

“There are mitigations in place, we have extended the Household Support Fund.”

Data taken from AgeUK and your own Dear Colleague letter of 27th September shows that, per pensioner, the East of England can expect to receive some of the lowest amounts from the Household Support Fund in the country. Indeed, pensioners in the East of England will have less than half as much support as pensioners in London. A table is included below.

REGION	HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND	PENSIONERS	PER PENSIONER
East Midlands	£ 34,568,744.99	930,299	£ 37.16
East of England	£ 40,039,457.24	1,217,109	£ 32.90
London	£ 67,871,407.44	1,017,173	£ 66.73
North East	£ 24,202,622.51	529,172	£ 45.74
North West	£ 66,068,127.34	1,347,466	£ 49.03
South East	£ 54,117,874.65	1,770,246	£ 30.57
South West	£ 37,564,628.40	1,247,843	£ 30.10
West Midlands	£ 49,520,715.25	1,085,710	£ 45.61
Yorkshire & the Humber	£ 47,046,422.19	1,013,432	£ 46.42

If the Household Support Fund is indeed intended to be sufficient to mitigate the impacts of your Government’s decision to axe universal Winter Fuel Payments, could you explain why you have decided that pensioners in the East of England deserve so little support?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blake', with a horizontal line underneath.

Blake Stephenson MP

Member of Parliament for Mid Bedfordshire

Co-signed by:

James Cartlidge MP, Member of Parliament for South Suffolk

Lewis Cocking MP, Member of Parliament for Broxbourne

Dr. Neil Hudson MP, Member of Parliament for Epping Forest

Ben Obese-Jecty MP, Member of Parliament for Huntingdon