

Government Help Towards Cost of Living Increase

In May, the Chancellor announced the following measure to assist with the cost of living increase:

What has been announced?

Cost of living payments



8m lowest income households

£650



8m pensioner households

£300



6m receiving non means-tested disability benefits

£150



Energy grant for all households

£400

Source: HM Government



1. Those who are in receipt of any of the following benefits **on 25th May 2022**, will receive a one off payment of **£650** (paid in two lumps to their bank account).

- Universal Credit
- Income Based JSA
- Income Related ESA
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Pension Credit
- And those who began a claim on 25th May and was successful

This one off payment will be Tax Free, will not affect the Benefit cap and will not be taken into account in existing benefit payments. The first payment will be in July and the second in the autumn.

2. **£300** for all pensioner households as a top up to the Winter Fuel Allowance in November/December. This will apply to those who are 66 or over between 19-25th September 2022. Non-taxable and has no effect on eligibility for other benefits and can be paid on top of any other one off support.
3. **£150 \disability cost of living payment**
This is payable to anyone who on 25th May 2022 is in receipt of DLA, PIP Attendance Allowance, Scottish disability payment, and AFIP (Armed Forces Independence Payment), Constant Attendance Allowance or War pension mobility supplement. This will be paid from September. Tax free and does not count to the Benefit cap. It will not have any effect on existing benefit awards.
4. In a previous announcement the Government had announced that £200 would come off fuel bills this autumn and would be repayable over five years. This is now scrapped and replaced with **£400** energy support scheme **which will not be repayable**. This will be delivered through suppliers from October to those with domestic electricity meters through direct debit customer's account. Those with pre-payment meters will receive this help through the meter or pre-paid vouchers.

There are some people who will not benefit from this payment if they pay all their utility costs as part of their monthly rent charge. For Trust, many tenants pay their heating through their rent, but everyone still pays their own electric providers. We therefore think that this payment will still go to your utility provider, but we are awaiting more guidance from the Government to confirm this.

5. **£500 million** extra funding for the Household Support Fund for October – March 2023 will be made available, however new guidance has still to be issued to advise on eligibility criteria. A part of this funding will be delivered to the devolved Governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland through the Barnett formula and those devolved administrations will make their own decisions about how this extra funding will be used.

For more information about the Chancellor's assistance measures, please go to:

[Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)