

DAVID SIMMONDS CBE MP
RUISLIP, NORTHWOOD AND PINNER



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London SW1A 2HQ

03 September 2024

Dear Rachel,

Ahead of Parliament's vote next week, I write to register my concern at the proposed changes to the Winter Fuel Payments scheme.

Over the summer, I have heard from many of my constituents who will be severely impacted by this policy. Each letter received struck a chord as I heard from elderly residents who do not qualify for pension credit and those who are concerned on behalf of their loved ones. In outer London, elderly residents already face higher housing costs and the additional burden of Mayor Khan's policies that disproportionately impact elderly residents in the suburbs.

I am particularly concerned by those who sit just a few pounds over the eligibility limit. Those on the maximum Attendance Allowance, for instance, will not qualify. It is these residents who are now facing real challenges to ensure their homes stay warm over winter.

You will be aware of the anger felt by many across the country. You will also be aware of the concerns raised by the charitable sector on behalf of those who are unable to raise their voice.

This decision comes at a time when public money is being spent elsewhere. The last government successfully delivered around 11.9 million Winter Fuel Payments and Pensioner Cost of Living Payments to older people across the UK in December 2023. I am appalled that the government has decided to reverse this progress, punishing vulnerable pensioners while rewarding its union backers.

I am therefore calling on the government to afford pensioners the security in retirement they all deserve by dropping this policy.

Kind regards,

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

David Simmonds CBE MP
Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner

T: 0207 219 6578
E: david.simmonds.mp@parliament.uk
W: www.davidsimmonds.org.uk

Constituency T: 0203 545 2462
TW: @DSimmonds_RNP
FB: fb.com/DavidSimmondsMP