

DANIEL KAWCZYNSKI MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

01 February 2023

Dear Constituent

### **Domestic Heating Oil**

Thank you for contacting me about the price of heating oil.

The Government recognises that there are certain situations where a third party will be responsible for the energy bill. You will be reassured to know that the Government has confirmed that further funding will be available to provide equivalent support of £400 for energy bills for the 1 per cent of households who will not be reached through the EBSS. This includes those who do not have a domestic electricity meter or a direct relationship with an energy supplier for example if you live in a park home, houseboat or you live off the grid.

Alongside the energy bills support scheme, targeted support will help the most vulnerable households and individuals in receipt of means-tested benefits who will receive a one-off £650 payment. In addition, pensioner households will see a one-off £300 payment alongside the Winter Fuel Payment and individuals receiving disability benefits will receive £150. But the Government knows we need to go further, that is why the Government has introduced an Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) which will give people certainty with their bills. This guarantee, which includes the temporary suspension of green levies, limits the amount you can be charged per unit of gas or electricity. This means that a typical household would pay no more than £2,500 per year until April 2023. From April 2023, the price cap will rise so that a typical household will pay £3,000. The Energy Price Guarantee will then end in April 2024.

The Government has introduced an Alternative Fuel Payment of £200 to support households who use alternative fuels, such as heating oil, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), coal or biomass, to heat their homes. The payment will ensure that a typical customer using heating oil does not face a higher rate of growth in their heating costs since last winter.

The vast majority of Alternative Fuel Payment eligible households in Great Britain will receive payment automatically in February via their electricity supplier with no need to take any action. There will be a small number of customers who are unable to receive the funding automatically, for instance households in the UK who are located in areas on the gas grid but do not have a gas connection, and we will ensure there is a route for those households to apply for and receive the £200 support. These customers will be able to do so soon, through the same GOV.UK portal as the one that will be used to apply for support under the EBSS Alternative Funding scheme. I understand that a pilot programme using the Government portal, and a telephone support service for those who struggle to access the portal, has been set up. The Government aims to have the portal open at the end of the month. If all goes well with the pilot, payments will be processed by local authorities and will go out as soon as possible in February, and certainly this winter.

Those households who will need to apply will be able to do so in February, through the same GOV.UK portal as the one that will be used to apply for support under the EBSS Alternative Funding scheme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kaw', followed by a horizontal line.

Daniel Kawczynski MP  
Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury & Atcham