

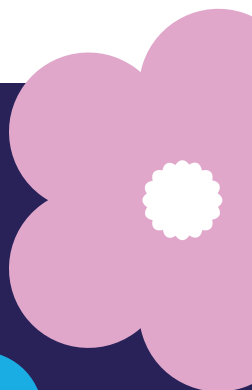
Energy Advice



MESOTHELIOMA UK

www.mesothelioma.uk.com

0800 169 2409



Introduction

Rising energy prices are causing concern for households across the UK. People with a long-term illness like mesothelioma may find that they have to spend more money on energy. Perhaps because they are spending more time at home or feeling colder because of treatment.

New government schemes

It is difficult to find cheaper tariffs right now so switching suppliers to save money will not be an option for most people. However, there are grants, benefits and discount schemes available to help reduce your energy costs. Combining several of these schemes is the best way to maximise your savings.

The government has recently announced a revised package of support to try and reduce the impact of rising energy prices. This includes:

- **From October 2022 £400 payment will be made as a grant – it will not be recovered via future bills.**

Direct debit and credit customers will have the money credited to their account, while customers with pre-payment meters will have the money applied to their meter or paid via a voucher.

- **A £150 council tax rebate in April 2022**

You'll get a rebate of £150 off your annual council tax bill if you live in a property banded A

to D (excl. NI).

- **Additional funds for discretionary schemes**

The government will provide local councils with extra funds to help those on a low income who need additional support.

- **£650 one-off Cost of Living Payment for those on means-tested benefits:**

- Made in two instalments, July 2022 and autumn 2022.
- Includes all households receiving the following benefits:
- Universal Credit, income-based Jobseekers Allowance, income-

related Employment & Support Allowance, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Pension Credit

- Payment will be made directly to the household. Claimant needs to have been in receipt of benefit since 25/05/2022 to be eligible for the first payment.

- **£300 one-off Pensioner Cost of Living Payment**

- Additional £300 payment to all pensioners who receive the Winter Fuel Payment
- Paid on top of the existing Winter Fuel Payment and the other cost of living payments

- Payment due in November/December as part of the annual Winter Fuel Payment
- **£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment**
 - One-off payment to be made in September 2022.
 - For all people who receive:
 - Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance, Scottish Disability Benefits, Armed Forces Independence Payment, Constant Attendance Allowance, War Pension Mobility Supplement
 - Claimant needs to

have been in receipt of benefit since 25/05/2022 to be eligible for the payment.

- Payment will be made directly to eligible people.

The one-off payments can be combined. For example, if a person is over State Pension age and also claims Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance they will be entitled to 3 one-off payments - £650, £300 and £150 totalling £1,100 plus the £400 grant, the existing Winter Fuel Payment (£100-300 depending on circumstances) and the Warm Home Discount of £150.

Existing Schemes

These new measures can be combined with existing schemes:

- **Winter Fuel Payment**

If you were born on or before 25 September 1956 (the eligibility birth date changes every financial year) you could get between £100 and £300 to help with your energy bills. Most people eligible for this scheme will receive the payment automatically.

You may not receive this payment automatically if you do not get State Pension or any other social security benefit or if you live abroad. This does not necessarily mean you aren't entitled, but you will need to make a claim.

- **Cold Weather Payment**

If you receive certain benefits, including Pension Credit and Universal Credit, you will receive a one-off payment to help pay for extra heating costs if the temperature is cold enough for long enough (zero degrees celsius or below over 7 consecutive days). These payments are made automatically.

- **Warm Home Discount**

You could get £150 off your electricity bill for winter 2022 to 2023. If you receive the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit you are automatically eligible and if you receive certain other benefits,

you may also be eligible. Only people who receive Pension Credit receive this automatically, everyone else must apply directly to their electricity supplier. The easiest way to check if you are eligible, and when your electricity supplier starts taking applications, is to visit their website or call them.

- **Help with energy debt**

Further assistance is available if you are in debt to your energy supplier. They are obliged to help you if you let them know you are struggling. There are a range of options available such as debt repayment plans, payment reductions and

breaks and access to charitable trust funds.

Priority Services Register

You can get extra help and support from your energy supplier by signing up to the Priority Services Register. It offers a range of services to help people who are in vulnerable situations.

The help you can get includes priority support in an emergency, for example providing you with heating and cooking facilities during a power cut.

You can also request a meter reading service if you can't easily read the meter yourself or have your bills sent to or copied to someone else.

We strongly recommend signing up for this free scheme if you rely on your energy supply for medical reasons, such as a stairlift, so your supplier can prioritise you in the event of a power cut.

The fastest way to register is to visit your energy supplier's website or call them and ask to be placed on the Priority Services Register.

Who are my energy suppliers?

If you are unsure who your gas supplier is, you can find out by visiting:

www.findmysupplier.energy
or calling **0870 608 1524**

For electricity you will need to contact your Energy Network operator.

You can find out who your operator is by visiting:
www.energynetworks.org

Further help

For help to check benefit entitlement, assistance with form filling or to discuss any problems with benefit/compensation applications, please contact the Mesothelioma Benefits Advisers on **0800 169 2409** or email info@mesothelioma.uk.com

Alternatively, you can contact an Asbestos Support Group or your local Citizens Advice office. Details of which can be found on our website: www.mesothelioma.uk.com

Mesothelioma UK

provides specialist, impartial, up to date support and information.



To sponsor or donate contact: Mesothelioma UK

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