

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st September 2023

Dear Applicant,

RE: ENERGY SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS USING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of help with energy bills for families using medical equipment for long-term health conditions. I have read your comments with interest.

As the Government explores possible approaches to consumer protection from April 2024, it is working with medical support organisations, considering costs for people with long-term health conditions, and assessing the need for specific support for people using medical equipment in the home. Officials are discussing developing policy with charities, industry, and other consumer groups, with a view to targeting support for the most vulnerable and alleviating fuel poverty.

More broadly, the Energy Price Guarantee limits the amount you can be charged per unit of gas or electricity. The current price guarantee, set at £3,000, will support households between now and April 2024. Although energy prices are currently below the level at which EPG payments would be made, it will remain in force until the end of March 2024 to protect households from price spikes, putting in place a safety net for households up and down the country.

Children and young adults with a long-term health condition or disability can be entitled to up to £172.75 a week, tax-free, as a contribution to the wide range of extra costs they face through either Disability Living Allowance, or Personal Independence Payment.

These benefits are not means-tested, are paid in addition to other social security benefits, and can also provide a passport to additional support, such as premiums and additional amounts in the means-tested benefits.

Moreover, at the 2022 Autumn Statement, the Government announced a substantial support package for the most vulnerable for 2023/24, including £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payments, £150 for people on disability benefits, and £900 for people on means-tested benefits. The Government is also providing £1 billion of extra funding by extending the Household Support Fund, being administered by local authorities on a discretionary basis, to March 2024, bringing the total of the fund to £2.5 billion.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE