

Dyddiad/Date: 22nd November 2024

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

RE: Urgent Notice of Motion on Winter Fuel Payments.

At a meeting of Full Council on Wednesday, 25th September 2024, Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council debated and subsequently voted to pass a Notice of Motion requesting that I write to you to convey this Council's position in respect of the decision taken to end universal Winter Fuel Payments.

Under this change, you will be aware that an estimated 538,397 pensioners across Wales are expected to lose their Winter Fuel Payments - a total of 86.8% of those eligible under the most recent data. Within Rhondda Cynon Taf, this could mean that an estimated 84.8% of our pensioners will lose their eligibility for the allowance.

Whilst Members understood that many pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, they also recognised that thousands of residents across our County Borough and across the wider UK will sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now unfortunately lose their allowance.

During the debate, this notion caused deep concern for Members across the Chamber, as we understand firsthand the positive impact this payment had in helping our more vulnerable older residents get through the harsh winter months.

Therefore, to this end, it was agreed by Full Council that this Motion called upon me, in my capacity as the Leader of the Council, to write to you seeking more information on how those pensioners who are not eligible for Pension Credit, but whose income falls close to the threshold, will be supported as needed through the coming winter period.

Swyddfa'r Cabinet Cabinet Office
4ydd Llawr, 4th Floor, 2 Llys Cadwyn,
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Members recognise and value the work already undertaken by the new UK Government to protect the Triple Lock on pensions, and to encourage the uptake of Pension Credit for those 880,000 eligible pensioners. We also recognise that this commitment is in stark contrast to previous government administrations and understand the significant role we can play as a local authority to work with the Westminster Government to encourage this uptake.

Therefore, this Council will continue to make every effort we can to contact residents directly using our Housing Benefit, Council Tax, and Adult Services support records to identify those who are in receipt of the State Retirement Pension (SRP) but are not receiving Pension Credit and provide them with more information and support to complete the assessment.

However, we would like to urge the new UK Government to provide more targeted support to those pensioners in need, or to take similar actions to support pensioners once the UK's financial position improves to ensure that our most vulnerable residents can be supported as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Y Cyngorydd Andrew Morgan OBE
Arweinydd y Cyngor a Chadeirydd y Cabinet
Councillor Andrew Morgan OBE
Leader of the Council and Chair of the Cabinet

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