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The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
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Tuesday 27th May 2025

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

I am writing on behalf of the estimated 14,000 pensioners in Sutton and Cheam who were disgracefully stripped of their winter fuel payment last Autumn.

The Prime Minister's recent remarks suggest that a change may be imminent to this disastrous policy. I am writing to let you know that I strongly support the reversal of the cut to the winter fuel payment.

However, the lack of any concrete detail surrounding changes to the payment is concerning. Pensioners already enduring financial pressure now face further distress. They live in complete uncertainty, doubtful to whether their winter fuel payment will ever be reinstated.

My constituents are unable to plan their finances for the months approaching winter. The vagueness surrounding eligibility and the size of the payment only adds to their anxiety.

In London alone, approximately 78% of pensioners are living in poverty, or just above the poverty line. Under your current policy, four in every five of these people would remain excluded from receiving the winter fuel payment.

The loss of £200 or £300 for many of my constituents has not been a minor adjustment. It was a critical blow for their ability to stay warm, healthy, and safe last winter.

It is projected that if the current winter fuel payment threshold remains, it will push 100,000 more pensioners into poverty by 2027.

My constituents deserve clarity on changes to the winter fuel payment now. Not this coming Autumn.

I therefore request that the Treasury immediately outline the specifics of this policy reversal. In particular:

- Who will be eligible under the new winter fuel payment arrangements?
- Will any interim measures be taken to support those who have already suffered under the cuts over the last year?
- Will the policy change to winter fuel payments be confirmed before the Autumn Statement?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Taylor | Liberal Democrat MP for Sutton and Cheam