



Website: fuelbankfoundation.org

Fuel Bank Foundation

Room 10,
Wombourne Civic Centre,
Gravel Hill,
Wombourne,
Staffordshire,
WV5 9HA

matthew@fuelbankfoundation.org

31 October 2022.

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your recent appointment.

Since its launch in 2015, Fuel Bank Foundation has provided same-day crisis support to more than 650,000 people who cannot afford to top-up their prepayment energy meter and are at risk of living without heat, light and power in their home. They are identified, and then referred to us, by a network of partners that includes the NHS, Local Authorities, Citizens Advice and Macmillan.

During 2021, the Foundation saw a 75% increase in referrals for help and we have seen a similar level of increase to date in 2022.

We were extremely concerned by the decision by your predecessor, Liz Truss, to withdraw the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) at the end of April. Given the frightening forecasts that energy prices will continue to rise for the foreseeable future, the clients we support need immediate and enduring reassurance they will be able to afford their energy bills after this point. We are already seeing examples of the coping strategies (some of them risky) they are employing due to their fears about the future. These include not using essential medical equipment, rationing of hot food and water, and not turning heating on.

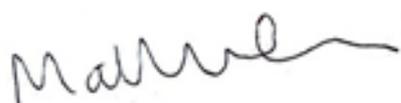
We are aware the Government is currently reviewing this and other spending commitments and would ask that you ensure the following points are given careful consideration when doing so:

- A decision about the future of the EPG must be made and announced as soon as possible in order to provide reassurance to those who are relying on it.
- Unlike the current policy, support needs to be targeted at the people who need it most. This will also have the effect of reducing the cost of the intervention;
- The new policy must recognise that some people will have higher than average energy bills and protect them accordingly (for example, households where someone is disabled or properties that are off the gas-grid) and

- Whilst we recognise that difficult financial decisions need to be taken, they must not disproportionately impact the group of people we support.

Fuel Bank Foundation now has a network of 425 Fuel Bank centres across the country and we would love to invite you, or a member of your team, to see our work at first hand so that you can hear for yourself the stories of the people that we support.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Cole

Head of Fuel Bank Foundation.

CC: The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

