



The government has recently announced a number of extra measures to support people with the cost of living. This briefing note explains the awards being made, timescales and qualifying conditions. £15 billion has been provided to supply the extra support for those with the greatest need. These awards are targeted to help around 8 million vulnerable households and all domestic electricity customers.

Awards being made:

Energy Rebate – via Council Tax:

Households in bands A – D will receive a payment of £150. This was announced in February and Cornwall Council have paid this already to residents that pay Council Tax by direct debit, and are in the process of paying this to non-direct debit payers. Encourage people to supply BACS details to us.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-tax/your-council-tax-bill/150-council-tax-rebate/>

Energy bill Support Scheme:

Households will receive £400 for support with their energy bills. This is not repayable, it's a grant. Electricity suppliers will be crediting the money to the customer's account or applying the money to pre-paid meters or paid via a voucher. These payments should be made in October 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer>

£650 one off Cost of living payment for means tested benefits scheme:

Claimants will receive a £650 total payment towards help with living costs. This will be paid in 2 payments – first in July, then another in Autumn (exact date to be confirmed). The payments will be made by the Government using the details they hold to pay the customers benefits. To qualify for these payments, you need to be in receipt or have begun a claim which is later successful as of 25th May 2022. (Eligibility for the Autumn payments will be confirmed nearer the time). The payments will be made by the Government using the details they hold to pay their benefits. The benefits you need to be in receipt of are:

- Universal Credit (UC)
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance (JSAIB)
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESAIR)
- Income Support (IS)
- Working Tax Credit (WTC)
- Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- Pension Credit (PC)

This award is tax free, will not count towards the benefit cap and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards (Therefore disregarded for Housing benefit and Council Tax Support purposes). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022>

One off £300 Pension Cost of Living payment:

Pensioners will receive an extra £300 to help cover the cost of energy this winter. It will be awarded to around 8 million pensioner households who receive a Winter Fuel Payment and is paid on top of any other support the pensioner household is entitled to – for example if they receive pension credit they will receive £650 plus £300 etc. The awards will be paid in November/ December 2022. Eligibility for this payment is being over State Pension Age (66 or above) between 19 – 25th September 2022. There are some circumstances where pensioners do not qualify these can be found at www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/eligibility. The payments will be made by the Government using the details they hold to pay the customers benefits

This award is tax free and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards (Therefore disregarded for Housing benefit and Council Tax Support purposes). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022>

£150 Disability Cost of Living Payment

Around 6 million people across the UK will receive a one off payment of £150 in September. Claims must be in receipt of or have begun an eventually successful claim as of 25th May 2022. The payments will be made by the Government using the details they hold to pay the customers benefits. Claimants of the following benefits will receive the payment:

- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP)
- Attendance Allowance (AA)
- Scottish Disability Benefits (SDB)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- War Pension Mobility Supplement

This award is tax free and will not have any impact on existing benefit awards (Therefore disregarded for Housing benefit and Council Tax Support purposes). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022>