



PRESS RELEASE

Release date: Immediately

One in 3 older people are due to miss out on the Winter Fuel Payment this winter

This winter changes to the eligibility for older people to qualify for the 2024/25 Winter Fuel Payment of between £200 - £300 per household to assist with sky rocketing heating bills, will be means-tested. However, it is estimated that more than 800,000 older people live on incomes below £218.15 a week for a single person and under £332.95 for couples in the UK and are already missing out on the Pension Credit alone, which will result in failure to qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment.

Alan Inman-Ward stated *“The cut in Winter Fuel Payment is going to hit those struggling the most. Knowing the impact this could have on older people in Gloucestershire and the NHS, we need to spread the message for everyone to check they are claiming all the benefits they are entitled to. This can be done quickly and easily on our website, where you can also find a wide range of information, guidance and support.”*

The Winter Fuel Payment eligibility requires recipients to be born before 23 September 1958, live in England and Wales to be receiving Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) or income support.* Eligibility is based on circumstances between 16 – 22 September 2024, and for those already receiving one of these benefits, automatic qualification will apply.

Check benefits eligibility using Age UK’s Benefits Calculator

Older people over the age of 66 are encouraged to check if they qualify for certain benefits using our Benefits Calculator. It will take around 10 minutes.

For those not eligible for benefits

There are many older people who may not qualify for benefits but will still struggle to keep warm this winter. Age UK Gloucestershire offers information, advice and guidance to older people who require help with support, as well as options to stay in touch with the charity.

Find out more about the Winter Fuel Payment at ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/wfp

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Editorial Notes:

Image caption: *Age UK Gloucestershire supporting support older people navigate the benefits system.*

About Age UK Gloucestershire

Age UK Gloucestershire's vision is that Gloucestershire is the best place in which to grow older. As a local independent charity, our mission is to help support people to navigate later life, to remain independent and connect socially by accessing activities within the local community.

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