



## Cost of Living Survey

[View this email in your browser](#)



**SILVER VOICES**

### MEMBERS' BRIEFING 28/22

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COST OF LIVING SUPPORT?

Silver Voices did not rush to welcome the Chancellor's latest response to the cost-of-living crisis like other older people's organisations. Although every bit helps, and the package is expensive, we felt it wise to study the implications of the measures and gauge feedback from our members before deciding our next steps in the campaign.

In summary, the Chancellor announced (for older people):

- £400 off energy bills (now a grant rather than a loan) for all households, to be paid within six months from October 2022
- £650 for those on pension credit (paid in two instalments in July and the autumn)
- An extra £300 added to everyone's winter fuel payment in November/December
- An extra £150 Disability Payment for those on disability benefits such as Attendance Allowance, paid in September

The full details of the package are available on the following Government factsheet:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-living-support/cost-of-living-support-factsheet-26-may-2022>

Silver Voices has many reservations about this package of measures and

- That most of these measures are intended to compensate for the further rises in energy prices due in October, rather than addressing the difficulties people are already experiencing now
- All of these measures are one-off payments, and the basic state pension increase remains at 3.1% when inflation is rising at over 9%. Inflation will remain high for at least the next 12 months and one-off payments will quickly evaporate as prices continue to rise
- The package addresses only one element of the cost-of-living crisis, energy prices, and leaves older people to try and cope with rampant food and household costs inflation without extra support
- The bulk of the package is directed at those on benefits, leaving the millions who survive on the basic state pension as their main source of income, but who do not qualify for pension credit, with insufficient help
- Not everyone will get the £400 energy grant, including renters who do not pay their energy bills directly and people living in mobile homes/caravan parks

Although the Chancellor has reiterated the Government promise that the Triple Lock will be restored next April, our pensions remain deflated because of the lock's suspension this year and the Government will save billions on pensions from here to eternity through this broken promise. Our aim must be to receive a compensatory payment this year which is embedded in the basic pension rates.

A further issue which is being raised increasingly by our members is the growing and unfair disparity between the 'old' state pension (paid to those who retired before April 2016 and the 'new' state pension which is usually quoted by the media. The difference between old and new is now over £43 per week (£185.15 compared to £141.85) and we will be picking this up as a campaign issue in the coming weeks (subject to your support).

Some members may wonder how increased support for state pensioners could be financed. But the National Insurance Fund into which we all paid has a massive surplus and there is plenty of room for higher taxes on banks, internet giants like Amazon and global social media companies.

A final sour note concerns the claim by Age UK that the Chancellor's package is a "win" for them. Nobody else apparently has made a contribution! This is the same organisation who supported the suspension of the Triple Lock, refused to campaign for its restoration and until very recently was calling for an uplift for those on benefits only. Many members

heydays.

Our priorities in the cost-of-living campaign, which we will continue to lead, with your support, will depend on the majority views of our members. So please fill in the survey on the link below by Sunday 12 June. The poll is conducted by an outside independent company and all individual returns are anonymous. Full results will be made available to all members in due course.

**FILL IN THE SURVEY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YWKPX72>

**5 June 2022**

This email was sent to [nigel@britishpensions.com](mailto:nigel@britishpensions.com)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
United Kingdom · 4 Blencathra Gardens · KENDAL, Cumbria LA97HL · United Kingdom