
WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Support available to help with the cost of living**

DATE **18 March 2026**

With the ongoing conflict in the Middle East causing uncertainty across global markets, we recognise that many people are struggling with the cost-of-living, particularly households who rely on oil for their domestic heating.

We welcome the £3.8m from the UK Government to support households in Wales that use oil for heating and hot water in light of the recent spike in prices. Costs for heating oil has more than doubled.

The funding for Wales is based on the number of households using heating oil rather than basing it on the Barnett formula.

The UK funding will be provided to Welsh Government from April for the 2026-27 financial year. However, I recognise households need support now – and we are taking steps to get additional financial support immediately to households in the most need as part of our ongoing cross-government approach to tackling the cost-of-living crisis.

We already provide support for those experiencing fuel poverty with purchasing off-grid fuel through our Discretionary Assistance Fund. We are acting now to increase support to those in financial crisis who use off-grid fuel by temporarily uplifting the amount to £750 per award that can be provided for heating oil while prices are inflated – using our own budgets this year. We are also increasing the frequency these payments can be provided, from once to twice in a rolling twelve-month period, a minimum three months apart.

These changes will be communicated to the DAF Approved Partners who submit the applications for this support, which includes local authorities.

The Fuel Bank Foundation, supported by Welsh Government, is increasing the minimum delivery support through their National Heat Fund Scheme in Wales for those in fuel crisis. The Foundation provides fuel vouchers for deliveries of oil or gas for those not connected to the mains gas network. This will ensure that they can continue to support households that pre-pay for their fuel and are at risk of disconnection.

This winter, eligible households receiving both the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Disabled Band Reduction are receiving a £100 payment through their local authority, and our Council Tax Reduction Scheme has provided more than £290m of financial assistance this year to almost 260,000 low-income households. Of these, almost 214,000 pay no council tax at all.

We recently confirmed an additional £1m for community food organisations and food banks across Wales to help feed more people who need support.

We are encouraging anyone who may be struggling to contact [AdviceLink Cymru's Claim What's Yours helpline](#) to check what financial support they may be entitled to. The service helps people access benefits, pensions, help with care costs and council tax reductions they may be entitled to. More than £10.5 million has been returned to people since 2020.