



STUNNING PICTURE SPECIAL MARKING THE RETURN O



Winter fuel payment
double standards
exposed as Farage
unearths Starmer tweet



Vote on whether Starmer
has betrayed pensioners
with winter fuel payment
cuts



Sponsored

Born Between
1944-1973? You Could Be
Eligible For This

British Seniors

Learn More

Where's the proof? Treasury and DWP refuse to release Winter Fuel Payment cash grab sums

The Daily Express asked the Treasury and DWP to confirm whether any
mpact assessment had been carried out ahead of the Winter Fuel Payment
pensioner cash grab Both refused to cooperate despite a Labour promise to
be honest with the public".

by **GILES SHELDRIK**

12:00, Thu, Aug 22, 2024



BOOKMARK 

5



Listen to this article



The Treasury has refused to say if an assessment relating to axing the Winter Fuel Payment exists

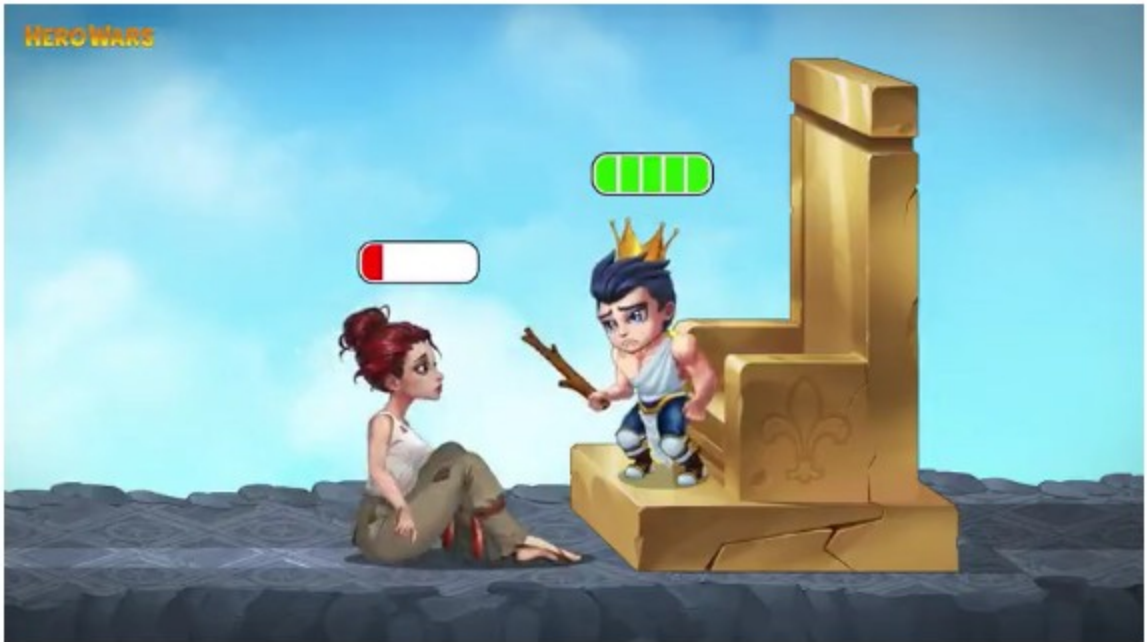
Image: Getty)



Government departments behind moves to axe the OAP Winter Fuel Payment have refused to reveal if their sums add up.

Labour wants to deny a £300 cold weather cash lump sum to 10 million pensioners, claiming the country cannot afford it.

Sponsored Link by Taboola



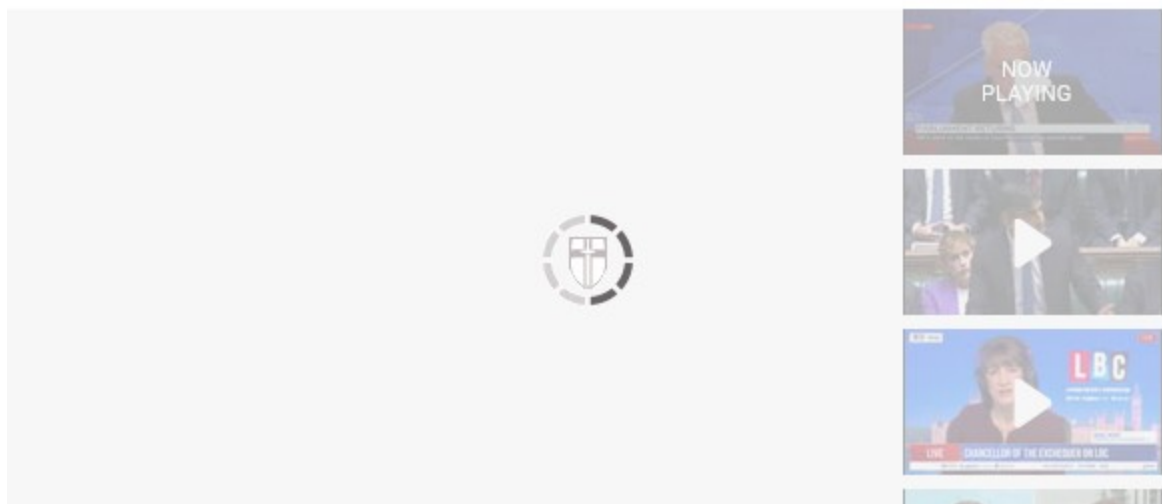
No foe is unbeatable. Own it!

Hero Wars

Play Now

But when asked to make its homework public, both the Treasury and Department for Work and Pensions refused to come clean.

One former minister claimed the stonewalling was because no impact assessment for the elderly cash grab exists.



They said: "This is utterly wrong and a terrible blunder. This has been foisted upon the elderly with no warning and I suspect it's driven by young policy wonks who feel it's high time to get back at pensioners. It's simply unreal. I think there never was an internal impact assessment. And I think the Government is panicking and is probably now frantically writing one."



Morrisons

[Sign Up](#)

More Card prices are here, see how much you can save.

by Taboola

Impact assessments are used to support legislative change, regulation, policy development and to inform parliamentary decision making.

But the speed with which ministers confirmed the perk would be scrapped, just days after winning the general election, has led many to believe it is simply policy-on-the-hoof.

RELATED ARTICLES



Martin Lewis says 800,000 state pensioners can claim £3,500 in cash help



Budget black hole just got bigger - Reeves to plug gap with three tax hikes

Labour wants to penalise pensioners, who many incorrectly assume are sitting pretty, by means testing the annual payment, a universal tax-free bonus first introduced by Gordon Brown in 1997.

In its crosshairs are the supposedly well-off retired, but the cash grab will see 10 million older people miss out with many forced into a life-threatening choice of eating or heating this winter. The number of OAPs entitled to the one-off payment made to see them through the coldest months of the year will plummet from 11.4 million to 1.5 million, estimates suggest.

Pensioners - many vulnerable and in poor health - have been given virtually no warning and equipped with no compensatory measures.

The move by Chancellor Rachel Reeves is part of efforts to plug what Labour claims is a £22 billion black hole in the public finances.

Only those in receipt of Pension Credit or certain other benefits will be entitled to the cash. Payment remains unchanged at £200 for those aged between 66 and 79 and £300 for those over 80.

The Daily Express asked both departments to confirm - with a simple yes or no whether any assessment had been carried out. Both refused to cooperate.

We asked to see the document and, if not, a reason for refusal. Again, both refused.

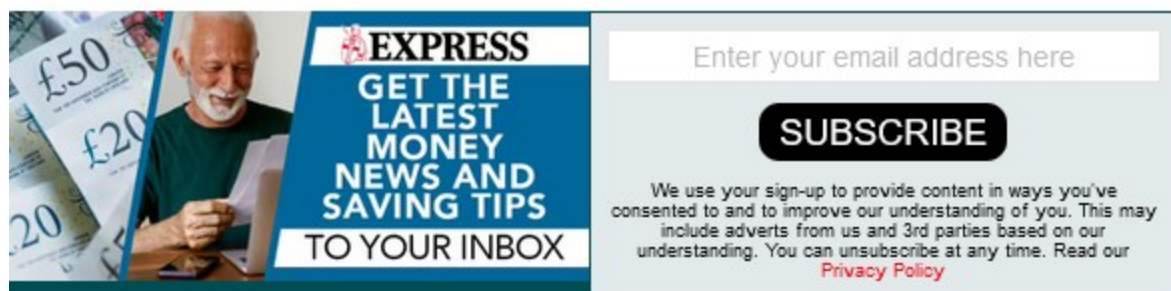
The **DWP**, headed by Liz Kendall, suggested we submit an application using Freedom of Information laws. We have done so.

But it refused to clarify whether any impact assessment actually exists, despite a Labour promise to "be honest with the public".

Separately, Baroness Ros **Altmann**, 68, the campaigning peer, former Pensions Minister and Saga director general, has tabled a written Parliamentary question asking the Government "what impact assessment it has made of the effect of removing Winter Fuel Payments, without warning, from pensioners whose incomes are a small amount above the Pension Credit threshold and on those who do not claim their entitlement". She has yet to receive an official response.

She said: "Pensioners are understandably angry at the sudden announcement that their **Winter Fuel Payment** will not be paid in a few weeks' time, as expected. Of course, some can manage fine without, but millions can't. This is not the way to fix the nation's budget, yet there seems to be a determination to try to balance the nation's books on the backs of pensioners. There should be a considered review of all aspects of how this country supports its elderly citizens, before making this kind of draconian change - £300 does not sound like much to most of us, but for pensioners it is significant.

Surely it is time for an independent or cross-party review of all aspects of pensioner support. Meanwhile, the Winter Fuel decision should be reconsidered urgently."



EXPRESS
GET THE
LATEST
MONEY
NEWS AND
SAVING TIPS
TO YOUR INBOX

Enter your email address here

SUBSCRIBE

We use your sign-up to provide content in ways you've consented to and to improve our understanding of you. This may include adverts from us and 3rd parties based on our understanding. You can unsubscribe at any time. Read our [Privacy Policy](#)

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director at Age UK, said: "Means-testing **Winter Fuel Payment** has big implications for millions of older people, particularly those living on low incomes or who face unavoidably big energy bills because of ill health. While better off pensioners probably wouldn't notice its loss, these less advantaged groups are likely to feel it very keenly, especially as this new approach is being introduced immediately this winter, giving little if any time to prepare.

We presume the Government commissioned a thorough impact analysis as part of their decision-making process, in which case it would be good for that to be published, so the public can understand the basis on which this policy choice was made."