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Winter fuel payment double standards exposed as Farage unearths Starmer tweet



Martin Lewis points out key flaw in pension rise to £460 as millions 'get less'



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Labour's next targets in war on pensioner benefits: free bus passes and NHS prescriptions

For years the Department for Work and Pensions has refuted claims that the UK pays the worst state pension in the developed world by saying pensioners get a string of benefits on top. Now Labour is snatching those benefits away, starting with the Winter Fuel Payment.

By **HARVEY JONES**

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Early signs suggest that Labour is raiding pensioner benefits (Image: Getty)



Pensioner benefits have been squeezed for years and the assault looks set to intensify as Labour chancellor Rachel Reeves takes money from the older generation and gives it to needy train drivers.

Simon Francis, coordinator of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, says that with the energy price cap set to rise from October 1, pensioners will see their energy bills jump 15% this winter.

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Yet Reeves has just withdrawn their **Winter Fuel Payment** just months before it was due to be paid, costing them £200, rising to £300 if over 80.

Francis wants Reeves to reverse that with immediate effect. So does former Pensions Minister turned campaigner Ros Altmann, who accuses Labour of “balancing the nation’s books on the backs of low income pensioners”.





Altmann called this “this is the wrong political choice”, which it is. Until you remember that most pensioners don't vote for Labour. Then it looks like the right political choice, if your name is **Keir Starmer**.



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by Taboola

Axing the **winter fuel payment** could backfire as pensioners freeze at home and fall ill.

“This will increase strains on the NHS, add to pressure on GPs and local councils, ultimately costing taxpayers more,” Altmann said.

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Only those who get Pension Credit will get the **Winter Fuel Payment**, but almost a million of the poorest fail to claim despite being eligible.

Now their lives will get even harder.

Another two million pensioners who are just above the Pension Credit threshold will also struggle.

Altmann said wealthier pensioners can manage without support towards winter fuel bills, but millions can't.

While £200 may be small change for a train driver, it's big money for many pensioners.

Successive governments have been chipping away at pensioner entitlements, in what Altmann calls "death by a thousand cuts".