



Nearly 10 million older people will no longer be eligible for winter fuel payments this year (Image: Getty Images)

NEWS	POLITICS	FOOTBALL
CELEBS	TV	SHOPPING

## Axing winter fuel payment for millions 'worse' than scrapping triple lock, says ex-pensions minister



Baroness Ros Altmann said Chancellor Rachel Reeves' decision to scrap the winter 10 million pensioners was the 'wrong political choice'

By **Lizzy Buchan**, Deputy Political Editor

11:35, 8 Aug 2024 | UPDATED 16:21, 8 AUG 2024

| 85 | **BOOKMARK**

Scrapping the winter fuel allowance for millions of pensioners is worse than ditching the triple lock and risks pushing people into "real hardship", a former pensions minister has said.

Baroness Altmann said Chancellor **Rachel Reeves'** decision to scrap the payments for nearly 10 million older people was the "wrong political choice". Ms Reeves told MPs last month she was "angry" at having to make the cut as she blasted the Tories for leaving a £22billion 'black hole' in the public finances.

Sponsored Link by Taboola

# Do you have a power of attorney?

Yes

No

## The Crazy Truth Power Of Attorney In Barnet

YOUR LPA EXPERT

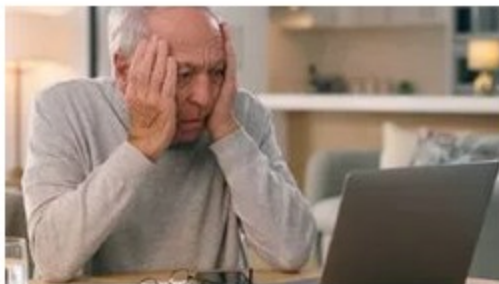
### SIMILAR ARTICLES TO THIS

POWERED BY  mantis



**Pensions forced to fill out 243-question DWP form to keep £300 Winter Fuel Payment**

**M** 16 COMMENTS



**State pension warning as millions not getting full £221 a week payment - check now**

**M**

Reach   
Advertisem

**Labour** has vowed to protect the triple lock, a mechanism where the state pension rises in line with whatever is highest out of inflation, average earnings, or 2.5%. But Baroness Altmann, who was pensions minister under **David Cameron** and now sits in the Lords, said cutting the winter fuel payment would

“Pensioners are not all well off and many struggle to make ends meet, living frugally on far less than most younger people,” she told the Telegraph.





Vital winter fuel payment advice given to worried pensioners by Angela Rayner



Chancellor Rachel Reeves is grappling with a £22billion black hole in the public finances left by the Tories (Image: PA)

"I do hope the Government will recognise that this is not right, it will cause real hardship and needs to be urgently reconsidered. Saving the £1.4 billion this year by making pensioners pay for the fiscal overspend is a political choice, and in my view it is the wrong one."

The winter fuel payment is worth up to £300, although it was hiked to up to £600 in recent years due to the cost of living crisis. The benefit had been available to everyone over the state pension age but it will only be awarded to those eligible for Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits.

Sponsored Link by Taboola



**FISHER INVESTMENTS UK**  
**4 Ways To Retire**  
**Comfortably With £250k**



**JAPANSDATES**  
**Dating For Mature Singles**

Try Now

This winter, the number of older people now eligible will fall from 11.4million to just 1.5million. Baroness Altmann claimed that the raid was equivalent to a 3.3% cut in their pensions for the oldest claimants, while those under 80 will see a 2.2% fall in the money they are paid.