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Winter Fuel fury as British pensioners £755 worse off than Irish after Labour raid

Ireland's system for pensioner support has been described as "better thought out" than Britain's.

By **KATIE ELLIOTT**, Senior Personal Finance Reporter based in London

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Winter Fuel fury as British pensioners £755 worse off than Irish after Labour raid (Image: Getty)

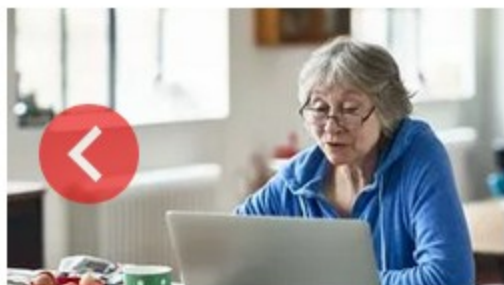


British pensioners will be £755 worse off than their Irish counterparts this winter due to cuts in **energy bill** support imposed by Labour.



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Chancellor **Rachel Reeves** decided to strip 10 million pensioners of their **winter fuel payments** this year, worth up to £300, by making the benefit means-tested. Previously, the payment was available to all pensioners in England and Wales born before a certain date.

Labour claims the means-testing of these payments is necessary to save £1.4billion and protect the economy, but criticism is mounting as the **Bank of England recently provided the Treasury with an unexpected £10billion fiscal boost.**

In Ireland, pensioners over 70 with weekly incomes up to £429 can receive energy support of £28 per week during the colder months, amounting to around £750 a year.



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In contrast, British pensioners with incomes as low as £11,500 will no longer receive winter fuel payments unless they claim pension credit, which is only available to those with a weekly income of £218 or less.

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Ireland's system for pensioner support has been described as "better thought out" than Britain's.

(Image: Getty)



Former pensions minister Baroness Ros Altmann slammed the policy, reports **The Telegraph**, saying: "This is truly irresponsible and no impact assessment has been made to work out the risks and how to mitigate them for the majority of those badly impacted."



Caroline Abrahams, director at Age UK, echoed the concerns, stating that Ireland's system is now "better thought out" than Britain's, and urged the Government to use the upcoming Budget to rectify the situation.

The cuts come as reports show seven out of 10 disabled pensioners will lose winter fuel payments due to these changes.