

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and  
Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
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09 August 2024

Dear Ed

Many congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero; I very much look forward to working with you in the future.

The Welsh Government has consistently called for a retail energy market which supports vulnerable households and those struggling with energy costs. The immoral actions of some energy suppliers around the forced installation of prepayment meters highlighted the cruel treatment of some of the most vulnerable in society and I will be monitoring the action of energy suppliers and Ofgem as installations recommence in Wales.

While the prepayment meter scandal was extreme, there is need for wider action to ensure a future retail market supports vulnerable and low-income households and provides affordable energy for all as we move towards a cleaner energy future.

I will be leading on fuel poverty in my role as Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip. Tackling poverty is my top priority and fuel poverty is a particular issue in Wales. We estimate up to 45% of all households could have fallen into fuel poverty following the price surge in 2022.

Despite a reduction in energy prices, many households continue to struggle to meet day to day costs and those in energy debt have fallen into deeper arrears. The Chancellor's decision on 29 July, that the Winter Fuel Payment will no longer be a universal payment in England and Wales risks pushing some pensioners into fuel poverty. There is a level of hardship and despair being experienced by households across the country and we need to develop a permanent, effective form of protection for households in need. Welsh Government has regularly called for the introduction of a social tariff to offer protection to vulnerable householders.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

While we continue to provide emergency financial support to households in Wales and deliver our demand-led energy efficiency scheme to reduce levels of fuel poverty, our powers and resources are limited. Key policy decisions rest with the UK Government and I urge you to focus on providing long-term support to lift people out of fuel poverty.

I look forward to a response from you on any current plans for this area of your portfolio and I am keen to discuss the issues with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Hutt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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