



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

Our Ref: SO28490

15 July 2022

Re: Fuel Poverty

Dear Mr Brearley,

I am writing to you today to raise concerns regarding the increased number of persons across the UK who will become 'fuel poor' due to the upcoming increase of the energy price cap, scheduled for October 2022.

Listening to you address the Public Accounts Committee last Monday, I was deeply alarmed by your statement that your previous estimate the price cap would reach £2,800 may be significantly exceeded by the final figure.

Having already suffered a 54% increase to the cap in April 2022, thousands of individuals are now facing an extremely difficult financial situation, which is set to reach a crisis point should a further significant rise occur.

I would therefore like to ask you if you have made an assessment as to the number and percentage of households in the UK that will be categorised as suffering from 'fuel poverty' subsequent to the October 2022 cap increase.

With thousands of Britons set to be plunged even deeper into an unprecedentedly difficult cost of living crisis, this assessment is of fundamental importance.

Should this calculation not have been made, I would then like to ask if an assessment will be made subsequent to the confirmation of the new cap figure in August 2022.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Kind regards,

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Treasury, Business and Industrial Strategy.