

# Andy Burnham MP

Working Hard for the Leigh area

10 Market Street  
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Press release

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For immediate use

## **Don't forget to claim your Winter Fuel Payment and keep warm this winter**

Local MP Andy Burnham, is today urging older people to get their applications for Winter Fuel Payments in now to ensure they receive help heating their home before Christmas.

As the summer months fly by, the Government wants to make sure those who have not previously received a Winter Fuel Payment apply as soon as possible and claim the money they are entitled to. New applications received by 22nd September will get their £200 payment in time for Christmas.

### **Andy Burnham MP said:**

"Thousands of pensioner households across the Leigh area already benefit from the £200 Winter Fuel Payment, with those containing someone aged over 80 receiving £300.

"I want to make sure everyone who is eligible applies for the help they deserve. If you have not received a Winter Fuel Payment in the past, you need to apply in order to claim your first payment. The sooner you claim - the sooner we can get you the money to heat your home."

This year, automatic payments will be paid to over 11 million people aged 60 and over. People should not need to apply for the Winter Fuel Payment if they have received it previously, or are already claiming State Pension or another social security benefit (other than Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Child Benefit).

Those who haven't received a Winter Fuel Payment before, or who are not in receipt of a relevant social security benefit in the qualifying week will need to make a claim. The deadline for all claims for Winter Fuel Payment in 06/07 is 30th March 2007.

### **Andy Burnham MP added:**

"The Winter Fuel Payment is one of a number of initiatives this government has introduced to help older people and underlines our commitment to tackling fuel poverty. No one should have to worry about how to heat their homes during the winter."

END

#### **Notes for editors**

1. Anyone aged 60 or over on or before 24 September 2006 may qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment of £200 per household. Households with someone aged 80 or over could get a payment of £300. The Winter Fuel Payments do not count as qualifying income for means-tested benefits.

2. Eligible people who will receive their Winter Fuel Payment automatically include:

- those who received a payment last year and whose circumstances have not changed.

- those who have never received a Winter Fuel Payment before but will receive a State Pension or other social security benefit (but not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Child Benefit) in the qualifying week 18-24 September 2006

3. Those people who are newly eligible and who need to claim, and have not already received a claim form, can get one by visiting the Winter Fuel Payment website - <http://www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel>, by calling the helpline on 08459 15 15 15 (0845 601 5613 for textphone users).

4. For those who need to claim and wish to receive their Winter Fuel Payment before Christmas, a correctly completed claim form must arrive by 22 September 2006. The final deadline for the receipt of claims for this winter is 30 March 2007.