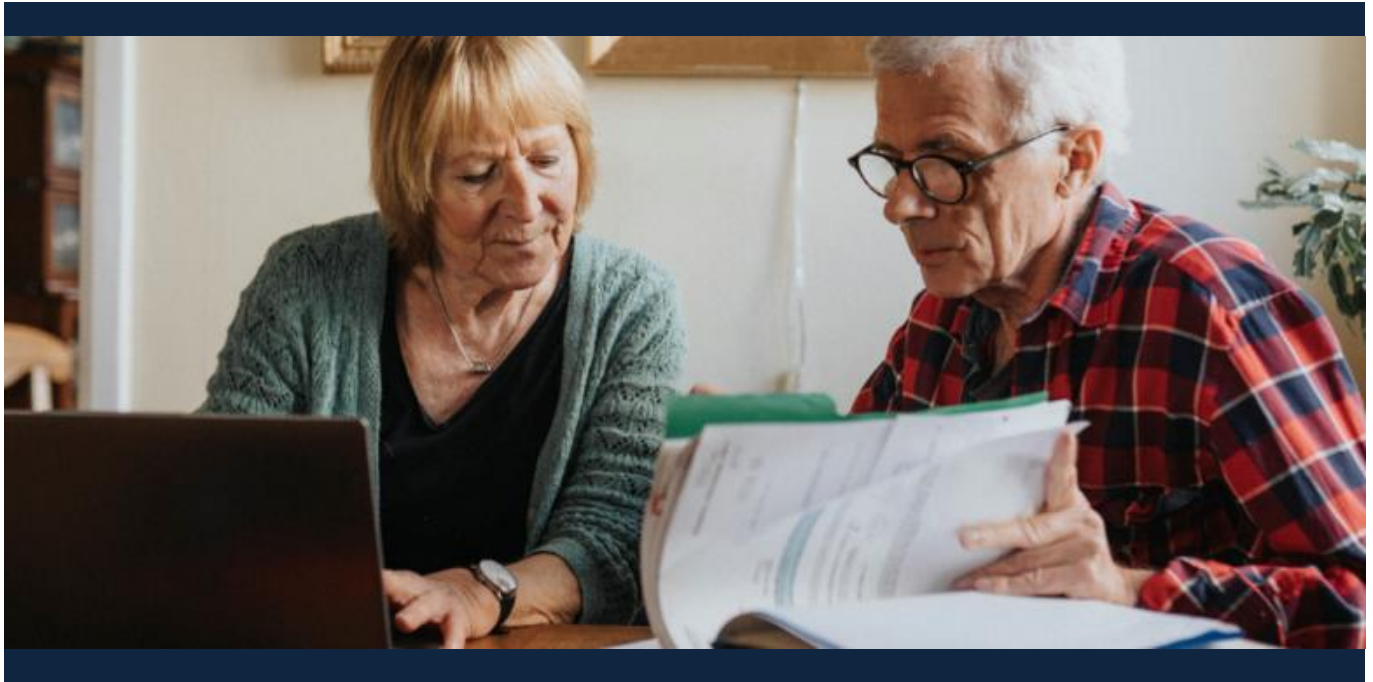


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We wanted to let you know about an important update that may be relevant to you or your family this winter. The Government has confirmed that the Winter Fuel Payment is being reinstated for the 2025–26 season, offering welcome help with heating costs for millions of pensioner households across the UK.

### **What is the Winter Fuel Payment?**

The Winter Fuel Payment is a tax-free sum paid once a year to help with heating bills. It is available to households where at least one person has reached State Pension age by the qualifying week of 15–21 September 2025.

### **How much will you receive?**

- If you are aged between State Pension age and 79, the standard payment will be £200 per household.
- If you are aged 80 or over, this increases to £300.
- In most cases, this payment will be made automatically in November or December. You do not need to apply.

### **Income thresholds to be aware of**

If your taxable income exceeds £35,000, the Winter Fuel Payment will be recovered through your tax code or your Self-Assessment tax return, depending on how you usually report income to HMRC. For couples not on means-tested benefits, the payment may be shared between both partners. If only one of you exceeds the income threshold, only their portion may be reclaimed through tax.

## Can I opt out?

Yes, there will be an option to opt out of receiving the payment to avoid a later clawback through the tax system. Full guidance on this will be issued by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) later in the year, and we will keep you informed once the process becomes available.

## What should you do now?

There is nothing you need to do at this stage, but we recommend reviewing your estimated income for the 2025–26 tax year to assess whether you will be above the £35,000 threshold. If you are unsure how this will affect you, we would be happy to help run a quick calculation and advise accordingly.

## We can help

Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss how this may affect your tax position. And if you are aware of any other colleagues or family that may benefit from receiving this news, please send them a copy of this update. Call us on **01753 888 211** or email **info@nhllp.com** we are here to help.