

07/08/25-Email from Maisie Chatfield (National Energy Action) to Rhys Morgan

Dear Rhys,

New official estimates from Welsh government published today reveal **that one quarter of all households in Wales (340,000) were in fuel poverty in October 2024**. These are households unable to keep their home warm at any reasonable cost, needing to spend more than 10% of their income to adequately heat their home. In addition to this, 63,000 households were estimated to be living in severe fuel poverty, equivalent to 5% of households.

In 2024/25, the average household energy bill based on standard energy consumption was estimated to be £1,850. This is 37% higher than 2021/22, when the average household bill was £1,360. The Welsh government will publish detailed analysis in October (including comparisons with other UK nations, trends over time, fuel poverty by household and dwelling characteristics, and a more detailed discussion on the factors that drive fuel poverty).

In response, National Energy Action Head of Wales Ben Saltmarsh says, *'Fuel poverty has deepened dramatically in recent years. Too many are living in cold homes, rationing essentials, and mired in debt – with grave physical and mental health consequences. Children are growing up in conditions that can damage their life chances for decades.*

'Paying over £1,700 a year for a basic utility isn't normal – and in many parts of Wales it's even higher, since north Wales faces the highest energy costs in GB and south Wales is not far behind. With some of the oldest and least efficient housing in northern Europe, keeping warm at home is simply unaffordable for hundreds of thousands.

'Ahead of the 2026 Senedd election, today's figures lay bare the scale of the challenge – but also the opportunity. With significant expected consequential funding from the UK government's Warm Homes Plan, all political parties in Wales must commit to considerably increasing investment in energy efficiency should they form the next Welsh government. We can – and must – make the homes of those most in need warmer, greener, and healthier places to live.'

National Energy Action also recommends:

- The next Welsh government maintains the provision of emergency crisis support, including help to top up prepayment meters and purchase off-gas fuel such as oil and LPG.

- The UK government provides deeper energy bill support in future for people who cannot afford a warm and healthy home.
- The energy regulator, Ofgem, supports low-income and vulnerable households to help repay their energy debt. Much of this debt was accrued during the height of the energy crisis and has no realistic chance of being repaid without support.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do get in touch.

Cofion cynnes,

Maisie Chatfield