

Energy Bills Rebate (Main Scheme) - 2022/23

The government has announced a package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate to help households with the rising energy costs.

Uttlesford will receive a payment of £3,120,450 for the main scheme providing £150 direct payments to households in Council Tax bands A-D. In addition, a further £177,000 has been provided for the Council to set a Discretionary scheme for properties that do not qualify under the main scheme.

The table below sets out Uttlesford's policy on awarding the energy rebate payments. In strict adherence to the Governments guidance

[Support for energy bills - the council tax rebate 2022-23: billing authority guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/support-for-energy-bills-the-council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance).

For the 2022-2023 financial year only, this scheme will be in place to provide a single energy rebate of a one-off £150 payment per household in the following circumstances.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The property is in the Uttlesford area and is valued in council tax bands A to D. This includes property that is valued in Band E but has an alternative valuation band D, as a result of the disabled band reduction scheme.
2. It is someone's sole or main residence
3. It is a chargeable dwelling or in exemption classes N, S, U or W
4. Eligibility will be based on the position at the end of the day on the 1st of April 2022

The following are **not eligible** for this scheme

5. A property that has no permanent resident and is someone's second home
6. The Council Tax is paid by a local authority, corporate body, or other body such as a housing association, the government, or a governmental body.
7. Where the Council is aware that the liable Council Taxpayer does not occupy the property.
8. An unoccupied property (for the purposes of calculating council tax)

Other information

9. All properties in Council Tax valuation bands A-D, which are occupied by a Council tax liable party as their sole or main residence will qualify for this award. The scheme will include those chargeable dwellings which fall under the following exemption classes

N – Occupied by full time students

S – Occupied by a person under the age of 18

U – Occupied by a person who is severely mentally impaired

W- An annex which is occupied by a specific category of family member

10. The Ministry of Defence will be in touch with residents of armed forces accommodation which is exempt under Class O about corresponding cost of living support.

11. This payment although made to the Council Taxpayer is being provided to support all the residents of the household.

12. Eligibility will be determined based on the position at the end of the day on 1 April 2022.

- Where the Council has reason to believe that the information we hold about the valuation list, liable taxpayer(s) or residents' circumstances in respect of 1 April 2022 is inaccurate, we will withhold the payment and take reasonable steps to determine the correct information.
- Where records relating to the liable taxpayer(s) or residents' circumstances in respect of 1 April 2022 are retrospectively updated, the council will take steps to pay or clawback payments.
- Where the property band recorded on a valuation list is amended retrospectively to 1 April 2022, for example as a result of a successful appeal made to the Valuation Office Agency ('VOA') that concluded after this date, the council is not required to pay or clawback payments. The exception is where a property is a new build and awaiting an official banding from the VOA. In these cases, eligibility should be determined based on the official band subsequently allocated by the VOA, where this has an effective date before or on 1 April 2022.
- Where a review, proposal, or appeal pre-dating the announcement on 3 February 2022 is successful after 1 April 2022 and as a result, a property would have been eligible for the rebate, the council may provide support using their Discretionary Fund.

13. All payments made under the Energy Rebate Scheme, or the Discretionary Fund are to be treated as local welfare provisions and therefore will not be considered in the calculation of the income related benefits.

14. Full prepayment checks will be made in line with Government Guidance.

Payments

Where a direct debit instruction is held for the liable Council Taxpayer, a direct payment will be made automatically into the recipients' bank account.

If no bank details are available these will be collected via a secure online portal of which a link will be provided on the Council's website. Digitally excluded customers will be assisted by the Customer Service Team, the Revenues Collection Officer, or the Recovery Team Leader in making an application over the phone.

For those without bank accounts alternative means of payment will be available in exceptional circumstances.

Once payment has been made all customers will receive a confirmation letter advising them that the energy rebate payment has been made on the assumption that they are the liable council taxpayer (or would have been if the property did not fall into one of the eligible exemption classes), and that, if this is not the case the payment will be recovered.

These payments are non-taxable, and recipients do not need to inform HMRC of the amounts received.

Fraud

The Council and Government will not accept deliberate manipulation or fraud. If any person(s) is found to have falsified their records, given false or misleading information, or omitted information to gain the Council Tax rebate scheme they may face prosecution under the Fraud Act 2006, and any monies paid will be recovered. Any grants paid in error will also be subject to recovery.

Privacy Notice

All applications will be subject to a prepayment check, to confirm the identity of the applicant and their bank account details. The only exceptions to this will be customers who have been paying their Council Tax by direct debit over several months and those in receipt of LCTS where identity checks have already taken place. Data will be provided to DLUCH on request, as part of the reconciliation and verification process.

Please use the following link to find out how the Council will handle your data.

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/privacy

Review

This policy will be updated should further guidance/updates be provided from Central Government.

For the purpose of the Energy Rebate, a household is a person or group of persons occupying a single dwelling, as defined in section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.