

This government, the Tory party and the rotten ethos th...

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I am not getting out and about much at the moment, which is unlike me. The cold is a factor, of course, but I can, thankfully, afford to have heating on in our house.

I think that in a country where we can realistically expect it to be cold quite often that it is a basic human right to be warm enough to avoid the harm the cold can cause to people of all ages, but most especially the elderly. My commitment to sustainability does not change that, although that does keep the thermostat lower than average, and encourages the wearing of pullovers. But what is apparent is that the government does not share this view.

I am aware that maybe £55 billion will be spent subsidising household energy costs this winter. But I am also aware of three other things.

The first is that this relief is very poorly targeted. Nadeem Zahawi does not need a subsidy to keep his horses warm, for example.

Second, it is apparent that the subsidy is insufficient for those on lower incomes.

Third, it is also widely known that many who are forced to use prepayment meters have not either had or have not been able to apply the credits that they are due.

The result is that there is serious harm to health and well-being happening in the UK right now because a basic human right to be warm in a country where the cold can kill is not being respected by our government.

Mismanagement on such a basic issue is indicative of something more than a failure to govern. It suggests a simple lack of care to ensure that help gets to those who really need it. That is unforgivable. That is why this government, the Tory party and the rotten ethos that underpins it should be consigned to history.