

LAYLA MORAN MP

Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon

www.laylamoran.com

Unit C5, Grange Court, Abingdon Science Park, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3NB

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

Via email: Emily.Smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Our Ref: LM51054
2 September 2022

Dear Emily,

Thank you very much for your letter on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council regarding the cost of living crisis. I very much share your concerns and I am grateful to you for highlighting the impact of this crisis on the local community.

Soaring energy bills threaten to plunge millions into poverty this winter. It is a social catastrophe the likes of which we've not seen for decades. That's why the Liberal Democrats have called on the Government to cancel the increase in the energy price cap, with the Government instead paying the shortfall to energy suppliers so that they can afford to supply customers at the current rates.

The estimated £36 billion cost should be met by expanding the windfall tax on oil and gas company profits, and using the Government's higher-than-expected VAT revenues as a result of soaring inflation.

As well as this, we are urging the Government to reduce VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year to help families with the cost of living crisis. The move would save families an average of £600 as the cost of living crisis hits hard.

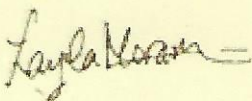
Our newly elected Liberal Democrat MP for Tiverton and Honiton, Richard Foord, urged the Government to cut fuel duty for rural areas on his first day in Parliament. Richard also tabled a parliamentary motion calling for Rural Duty Rate Relief to be doubled to 10p and to be expanded to cover more rural areas. My colleagues and I have signed this motion.

But as you say, we must go further. There needs to be new investment in renewable energy – starting now. We would like to see the UK investing in renewable power so at least 80% of electricity is generated from renewable energy by 2030 and investing to make 100% renewable power possible.

We want to reduce fuel poverty and emissions from buildings by 2025, including by providing free retrofits for low-income homes, piloting a new subsidised Energy-Saving Homes scheme, graduating Stamp Duty Land Tax by the energy rating of the property and reducing VAT on home insulation.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope this clarifies my position and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further concerns.

Best wishes,



Layla Moran
Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Oxford West & Abingdon