



VICTORIA ATKINS

Member of Parliament for Louth and Horncastle

23 November 2022

Dear Council,

Pension Credit: campaign to raise awareness

I am writing to ask for your help in raising awareness of Pension Credit and encouraging eligible pensioners to claim.

Pension Credit provides a vital income 'top up' for some of our most vulnerable pensioners – worth more than £3,500 on average. Although take-up is at the highest level since 2010, there are still too many missing out.

With household budgets under pressure this year, it is critical to get the message out that even a small award of Pension Credit can open up additional help and support – most importantly right now, the **cost of living payments**.

It is not too late for a pensioner to qualify for the second Cost of Living Payment – an extra £324 worth of financial support. This is because a claim for Pension Credit can be backdated for up to three months, provided the entitlement conditions are met throughout that time.

To ensure that a successful backdated claim falls within the qualifying period for the second Cost of Living payment, DWP is urging people to claim Pension Credit as soon as possible, but by no later than **18 December**.

I would be grateful for your support in helping to raise awareness of Pension Credit through your channels.

DWP has a toolkit of materials, including leaflets about Pension Credit, which can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pension-credit-toolkit/pension-credit-toolkit-advice-and-guidance-for-stakeholders>.

Information and advice about Pension Credit is available at www.gov.uk/pension-credit or the freephone helpline on 0800 99 1234.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Atkins MP
Member of Parliament for Louth & Horncastle