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# Winter fuel allowance extended by 4 weeks to support people in Covid-19 isolation

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4-5 minutes

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## KEEP WARM

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THE WINTER fuel allowance will be extended by four weeks to support people

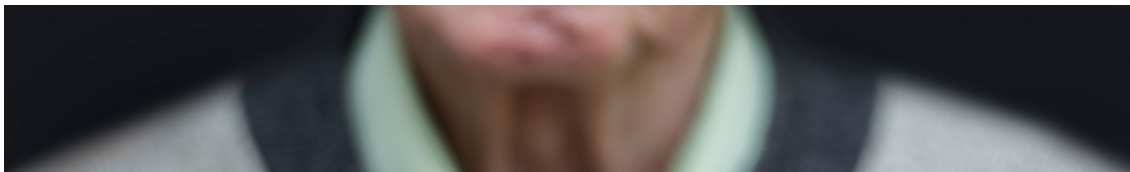
self-isolating due to Covid-19.

The fuel allowance payment is made to over 370,000 of the most disadvantaged households in the country including pensioners and those with disabilities, who are most at risk of fuel poverty.



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Fuel prices will be paid for another four weeks





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These measures will be a relief to vulnerable groups

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The rate is currently paid at €24.50 per week for 28 weeks, and is due to finish on April 10.

The allowance will now be extended from Friday 10th April to Friday 8th May.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said: "Because we're asking older people and infirm to stay

home and stay safe, we want them to stay warm too.

"So Cabinet today decided to extend Fuel Allowance on a once-off basis by 4 weeks to 8 May 2020.

"This will help ensure older & more vulnerable citizens are as comfortable as possible."

## **ISOLATION COMFORT**

The Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty and the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, today announced the new allowance.

Minister Doherty said: "The Covid-19 emergency presents a once in a century challenge to our society and our public services and we are determined that our

department does everything we can to meet emerging needs and provide comfort to as many as possible.

"At a time where we wish people to stay at home to stay safe, it makes perfect sense to extend the Fuel Season for existing eligible customers on a once-off basis by four weeks, to 8 May 2020, in order to ensure the most vulnerable groups are provided with additional targeted financial supports in a timely and efficient manner."

## **FUEL EXTENSION**

Minister Donohoe said: "During this time of unprecedented difficulty for our people, we must ensure that our older and more vulnerable groups are as comfortable as possible, as people adhere to government instruction in order to stay safe.

"It is for this reason that the Fuel Season is being extended until May.

"Everyone has a part to play in minimising the impact of this public health crisis.

"This extension will ensure those in receipt of this payment have one less thing to worry about and can remain safe and warm in their homes for the coming period."

The payment is made as an allowance paid alongside the customer's primary welfare payment.

On foot of the changes approved by Government today, the Fuel Allowance season will be extended by 4 weeks and will continue until Friday 8 May.

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Exclusive

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Live Blog

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## HEADING FOR DISASTER

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Meanwhile, the Government has [urged elderly people cocooning in Ireland to stop collecting pensions from post offices amid the Covid-19 crisis.](#)

Liz Canavan, a spokesperson for the Department of the Taoiseach said at a briefing today that the Government was aware of many pensioners visiting post offices when supposed to be practicing cocooning to protect themselves from the deadly coronavirus.

However, Ms Canavan highlighted how there is a range of alternative options to help OAPs collect their payments and pay bills.

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Social Protection Minister Regina Doherty