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Current take-up of Pension Credit

The Government's own figures show that over a million pensioners who are entitled to Pension Credit are not currently claiming it, with very serious consequences. This includes the non-payment of tens of millions of pounds-worth of support linked to Pension Credit such as a reduction on their heating bills through the Warm Homes Discount and a continued entitlement to a free TV licence, funded by the BBC, for those aged over 75.

In my view it is wrong that so many pensioners on lower incomes are missing out on this vital financial support at a time of rising inflation.

In addition, I know that research from Loughborough University, published last year, suggests that the failure to deliver Pension Credit to all those who are entitled to it is resulting in £4 billion a year of increased NHS and social care spending. This highlights how the non-take-up of Pension Credit can impose large additional costs elsewhere.

For all these reasons, I call on the Government to do much more to make people aware of Pension Credit and to encourage far greater take-up of it. A clear action plan to do this is needed as quickly as possible if we are to ensure that we make Britain the best place to grow up and grow old in.

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