

Debate Pack

31 January 2023

Number CDP-0026

By Elizabeth Rough,
Steven Kennedy,
Tom Powell,
Brigid Francis-Devine,
David Foster,
Anastasia Lewis

Impact of Cystic Fibrosis on living costs

1	Background	3
1.1	Cystic fibrosis	3
2	Cost of living pressures	4
2.1	The impact of inflation	4
2.2	Reports on the cost of living with cystic fibrosis	4
	The Cost of Cystic Fibrosis (2022)	4
	The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis (2023)	5
2.3	Overall government support for the cost of living	6
3	Social care support	7
3.1	Adults	7
	Treatment of income as a disability-related expenditure	7
3.2	Children	8
	Parent carers	9
4	Social security	10
4.1	Issues with benefits	11

5	Parliamentary material	13
5.1	Commons Library	13
5.2	Debates	13
5.3	Parliamentary questions	13
6	News articles and press releases	16

Summary

A Westminster Hall debate has been scheduled for Thursday 2 February on the Impact of Cystic Fibrosis on living costs support. The debate will be opened by Jim Shannon MP. This briefing contains background information, parliamentary and press material, as well as suggested further reading which Members may find useful when preparing for this debate.

1 Background

1.1 Cystic fibrosis

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic condition, present from birth, which results in an increase of mucus in the body. It is caused by a genetic mutation in the CFTR gene. This gene normally works to control the levels of salts in the cells but when this is not working, it results in a build-up of thick mucus which commonly affects the lungs and digestive system.

The build-up of mucus in the lungs of patients with cystic fibrosis can lead to breathing problems and recurrent infections. Shortness of breath, cough and wheezing are common symptoms. The pancreas is also commonly affected in cystic fibrosis. This can affect its ability to produce the enzymes necessary to break down food and can lead to malnutrition. It can also impact on the production of insulin and cause diabetes. Other organs that can be affected include sinuses, bones and joints, the reproductive system and liver.

Babies are screened for cystic fibrosis at birth using a heel prick test as part of the NHS new-born screening programme. It is estimated that 1 in 2,500 babies will be born with cystic fibrosis in the UK and there are around 10,800 individuals living with this condition in the country.¹ Symptoms typically begin in early childhood.

Treatment for cystic fibrosis usually seeks to manage symptoms. Medications including steroids, antibiotics, insulin and bronchodilator inhalers are often used. Recently, new medicines have been licenced that aim to target the genetic mutations that cause cystic fibrosis. Nutritional advice and physiotherapy for airway clearance are commonly part of management.² In October 2017, [NICE published updated clinical guidelines on the diagnosis and management of cystic fibrosis](#).

Prognosis is variable but much improved in recent years. Most people with cystic fibrosis will still have a shorter than average life expectancy. The Cystic Fibrosis Trust reports that, whilst a number of factors will affect this, the median survival for an individual with cystic fibrosis is currently 47 years. It is thought that children born now with the condition will live longer.³

¹ Cystic Fibrosis Trust, [Cystic Fibrosis FAQs](#)

² NHS website, [Cystic fibrosis treatment](#)

³ Cystic Fibrosis Trust, [Cystic Fibrosis FAQs](#)

2 Cost of living pressures

2.1 The impact of inflation

[Disability charities](#) and [campaign groups](#) have pointed out that disabled people often face higher energy costs, as many need more heating to stay warm and others have to use extra electricity to charge assistive technology.

As well as this, disabled people have a lower income than average: the [Resolution Foundation found in January 2023 that the gap in household income between adults with and without a disability was around 30% including disability benefits and 44% excluding disability benefits in 2020-21](#). A third of adults in the lowest household income decile have a disability.

[41% of disabled adults responding to a Resolution Foundation survey in November 2022](#) said they couldn't afford to keep their homes warm, compared to 23% of non-disabled adults. 19% were in moderate or severe food insecurity, compared to 5% of non-disabled adults.

2.2 Reports on the cost of living with cystic fibrosis

The Cost of Cystic Fibrosis (2022)

In Spring 2022 the Cystic Fibrosis Trust conducted a UK-wide survey on the cost of living with cystic fibrosis. There were over 1,100 responses from people with cystic fibrosis and their carers. Headline findings included that 69% of respondents felt they had less money compared to those around them, due to either their or their child's cystic fibrosis, and 87% of respondents said they were worried about the cost of living.⁴

The report called on the Government to take the following actions to support people with cystic fibrosis and other lifelong conditions:

- Benefits linked to current inflation, rather than the previous year's September consumer price index (CPI)
- An end to unnecessary benefit reassessments for people living with a lifelong condition like cystic fibrosis

⁴ Cystic Fibrosis Trust, [The Cost of Cystic Fibrosis](#), June 2022

- Free hospital parking and a subsidised hospital travel scheme for people with chronic health conditions⁵
- Free prescriptions for everyone with everyone with cystic fibrosis⁶
- An end to VAT on energy bills
- An end to Universal Credit migration
- Access to a social worker for everyone with cystic fibrosis
- A “meaningful” increase to the Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Statutory Sickness Pay (SSP) reform and an end the 28-week cap on SSP.⁷

The report also called on the UK Government to use the existing infrastructure around Personal Independence Payment (PIP) to make additional awards for those with long-term conditions to help them afford food, energy and essential equipment.⁸

The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis (2023)

The Cystic Fibrosis Trust funded research by a team at the University of Bristol to gather data on the financial costs of having cystic fibrosis. A report published in January 2023 found that the extra costs associated with the condition were more than £6,500 a year on average.⁹

These additional costs were made up of both extra spending, including heating, essential dietary needs, attending medical appointments, home medical equipment, and prescription charges, as well as loss of income because of the impact on employment.

The research also found that families with cystic fibrosis are more likely to be struggling with their finances than the general UK population with 24% of adults with cystic fibrosis, and 35% of parents of children with cystic fibrosis

⁵ In England, NHS hospitals should provide free hospital car parking for certain groups, which includes those who attend frequent outpatient appointments. NHS hospitals are encouraged to follow the [car parking guidance for NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts](#). The [Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme](#) (HTCS) provides reimbursement of “reasonable travel costs” for people in receipt of certain benefits, or who meet the eligibility criteria for the [NHS Low Income Scheme](#).

⁶ NHS prescription charges only apply in England - there are some benefit related exemptions, and support for people on low incomes. Further information can be found on the NHS webpage [Help with health costs](#).

⁷ Cystic Fibrosis Trust, [The Cost of Cystic Fibrosis](#) (opens PDF), June 2022, p6

⁸ Cystic Fibrosis Trust, [The Cost of Cystic Fibrosis](#), June 2022

⁹ University of Bristol, [The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis](#) (PDF), January 2023

reporting that just meeting their monthly bills was a ‘constant struggle’ (compared to 17% of UK households overall).¹⁰

2.3

Overall government support for the cost of living

The Government has repeatedly acknowledged the particular concerns of the most vulnerable, such as those suffering from long-term health conditions and disabilities, about the rising cost of living. In response to a PQ referring to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust’s June 2022 report, the Government noted overall support to address increased costs of living, as well as targeted measures to assist vulnerable households:

The Government understands the pressures people are facing with the cost of living which is why it is providing over £37 billion of support this year. People with cystic fibrosis who receive a qualifying means-tested benefit may be eligible for the £650 Cost of Living Payment which is designed to target support at low-income households. In addition, if they receive a disability-related benefit such as Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment, they may also be eligible for a disability Cost of Living Payment of £150.

All domestic electricity customers will also benefit from the £400 support being provided through the Energy Bills Support Scheme. We are also providing an additional £500 million to help households with the cost of essentials, on top of what we have already provided since October 2021, bringing the total funding for this support to £1.5 billion. In England, the current Household Support Fund is already providing £421m of support for the period 1 April – 30 September 2022 and will be extended until March 2023 with a further £421m.

People with cystic fibrosis may be entitled to support of up to £156.90 a week, tax free, from the extra costs benefits: Attendance Allowance; Disability Living Allowance; and Personal Independence Payment.¹¹

Further background can be found in the Library briefing [Rising cost of living in the UK](#) (23 January 2023).

¹⁰ University of Bristol, [The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis](#) (PDF), January 2023

¹¹ PQ 36932, [Cystic Fibrosis: Cost of Living Payments](#), 21 July 2022

3 Social care support

3.1 Adults

Eligibility for adult social care support is not condition-specific but based on a person's ability to perform certain tasks, such as accessing and engaging in work. Whether a person qualifies for local authority financial support towards their social care costs additionally depends on their financial position, including how much capital they have.

Further information is available in the Library briefing: [Paying for adult social care in England](#).¹²

Treatment of income as a disability-related expenditure

Broadly, even if a person is eligible for local authority funding support towards their social care costs, they are still required to contribute any income they receive (except disregarded income, such as earnings) towards the cost.

They are, however, allowed to retain a certain amount each week for personal expenses and (if applicable) household bills.

Most welfare benefits can be counted as income for these purposes (ie, they are not disregarded). However, statutory guidance published by the Department of Health and Social Care says, "where disability-related benefits are taken into account [as income], the local authority should make an assessment and allow the person to keep enough benefit to pay for necessary disability-related expenditure to meet any needs which are not being met by the local authority."¹³

Examples of such expenditure are set out in the guidance and include the costs of any specialist items needed to meet the person's disability needs - for example, specialist dietary requirements or heating costs above the average levels for the area or housing type.

The guidance notes the list is not exhaustive and "any reasonable additional costs directly related to a person's disability should be included."¹⁴

This could be relevant to adults affected by cystic fibrosis. For example, a [January 2023 report by researchers at the University of Bristol](#) suggested part

¹² Commons Library briefing CBP-1911, [Paying for adult social care in England](#).

¹³ DHSC, [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#), 27 January 2022, Annex C, para 14.

¹⁴ DHSC, [Care and Support Statutory Guidance](#), 27 January 2022, Annex C, para 40.

of the reason why the cost of living is felt “more keenly” in households affected by cystic fibrosis is “the higher reliance on energy, or more expensive dietary requirements.”¹⁵

3.2

Children

Under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities have a general duty “to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need... by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children’s needs.”¹⁶ Disabled children are included within the definition of children in need.

The Act specifies the range of services that can be made available for a child in need. These include (but are not limited to):

- Occupational, social, cultural, or recreational activities.
- Home help (which may include laundry facilities).
- Assistance to enable the child and their family to have a holiday.
- Assistance in kind or in cash.¹⁷

Any of the services listed in the Act (except day care or care or supervised activities) may also be provided to any member of the child in need’s family, “if it is provided with a view to safeguarding or promoting the child’s welfare.”¹⁸

Local authorities may charge what they consider reasonable for providing services to a child in need and their family. However, they are not under a duty to charge for services and they may not charge more than a person can “reasonably be expected to pay.”¹⁹

The January 2023 report from the University of Bristol suggested that “vouchers to pay for sports clubs, gyms, etc” could be one way of reducing the costs faced by households affected by cystic fibrosis.²⁰

A Library briefing provides more information on [local authority support for children in need](#).²¹

¹⁵ University of Bristol, [The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis](#) (PDF), January 2023, p13.

¹⁶ Children Act 1989, section 17.

¹⁷ Children Act 1989, section 17 and schedule 2.

¹⁸ Children Act 1989, section 17(3).

¹⁹ Children Act 1989, section 29.

²⁰ University of Bristol, [The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis](#) (PDF), January 2023, p43.

²¹ Commons Library briefing CBP-7730, [Local authority support for children in need \(England\)](#).

Parent carers

If a local authority considers a parent carer of a disabled child may have support needs, they must carry out a “parent carer’s needs assessment” under section 17ZD of the Children Act 1989. Such an assessment must also be carried out if the parent carer requests one. The duty to carry out an assessment only applies where the local authority is satisfied the child and their family are classed as in need under section 17 of the 1989 Act (see above).²²

Following an assessment, the local authority must decide whether the parent has needs for support and, if so, whether these needs could be met by services under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Further information is available via the following charity factsheets:

- Contact, [Carers assessments – help for parent carers](#) (PDF).²³
- Carers UK, [Assessments: Your guide to getting help and support in England](#).²⁴

²² Children Act 1989, section 17ZD.

²³ Contact, [Carers Assessments – Help for Parent Carers](#), March 2021.

²⁴ Carers UK, [Assessments: Your guide to getting help and support in England](#) (PDF), April 2020.

4 Social security

There are no benefits specifically for people with cystic fibrosis, but there are various benefits people with the condition, or their families, may be eligible for. These include:

- Benefits to help with the extra costs people face because of a health condition or disability, including Disability Living Allowance (now limited to children and young people under 16 for new claims) and Personal Independence Payment (for those of working age).²⁵
- “Income replacement” benefits which cover basic living costs for people unable to work because of their condition, including Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), and the Universal Credit (UC) Limited Capability for Work-Related Activity (LCWRA) element.
- In the tax credits system, additional help for disabled children is provided by the Child Tax Credit disabled child elements, and for disabled adults, the disabled worker element in Working Tax Credit.
- Disabled child additions are also available in Universal Credit.
- People caring for a family member with cystic fibrosis may also be able to claim Carer’s Allowance, and/or the carer element in Universal Credit.
- Further support is provided via the disability and carer premiums payable with means-tested “legacy benefits”²⁶ such as Housing Benefit.

People with cystic fibrosis may also qualify for the [Cost of Living Payments](#) made in 2022 and to be repeated in 2023/24, including the £150 Disability Cost of Living Payments for those receiving certain non-means-tested disability benefits, and Cost of Living Payments totalling £650 for households receiving most means-tested benefits (payments totalling £900 per eligible household will be made in 2023/24).²⁷

As of May 2022, there were 3,928 Disability Living Allowance (DLA) claimants in Great Britain with cystic fibrosis, of whom 3,358 (85%) were under 18.²⁸ Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data does not separately identify the number of people with cystic fibrosis claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or income replacement benefits.

²⁵ In Scotland, DLA and PIP are being replaced by the Child Disability Payment and the Adult Disability Payment, respectively.

²⁶ “Legacy benefits” are the means-tested benefits Universal Credit is replacing. They include Income Support, income-related ESA, and Housing Benefit. UC is also replacing tax credits.

²⁷ See Commons Library briefing CBP-9616, [Cost of Living Payments: Overview and FAQs](#)

²⁸ Source: [DWP Stat-Xplore](#)

An online survey of adults with cystic fibrosis and parents of children under 18 with the condition conducted by the Personal Finance Research Centre at the University of Bristol in October-November 2022 found that 68% of the adults with cystic fibrosis were claiming at least one benefit, with 27% claiming two or more types. The most common were extra-costs disability benefits (DLA, PIP or Attendance Allowance), claimed by 65%. This was followed by ESA or incapacity benefit (16%), and Universal Credit (10%).²⁹

41% of those in full-time employment were receiving an extra-costs benefit. 14% of those in part-time work were claiming UC, as were 25% of those not in work. 52% of those not working were claiming ESA or incapacity benefit.³⁰

Parents of children with cystic fibrosis were more likely to be in receipt of benefits than adults with the condition. 83% of parents were receiving at least one benefit, with 41% receiving two or more types. 31% were receiving Carer's Allowance, 22% tax credits, and 18% Universal Credit. 61% of families were getting extra-costs disability benefits.³¹

4.1

Issues with benefits

Being diagnosed as having cystic fibrosis does not in itself give an automatic entitlement to any benefit. Eligibility for extra-costs disability benefits, and for income replacement benefits for those where the condition affects their capability for work, depends instead on how the person's condition affects their functional capabilities – what they can and cannot do.

People interviewed as part of the University of Bristol research mentioned difficulties they had experienced applying for disability benefits. The report states that “a surprising number” of people with cystic fibrosis had either tried to claim DLA or PIP and been turned down, or had not applied for benefit because they expected to be refused. Some people did not know if they were entitled to any support, while others had only claimed because a social worker or nurse had suggested they do so. The researchers note that while the health impacts for cystic fibrosis vary considerably between people, it does appear as though it is harder to qualify for DLA/PIP through the changeable level of disability caused by the condition.

The report recommends that as part of efforts to ensure adequate incomes for people with cystic fibrosis, “disability-related benefits and benefits for those on low incomes need to be sufficient, while the process of applying for

²⁹ Evans J et al, [The Financial Costs of Cystic Fibrosis \(PDF\)](#), January 2023

³⁰ As above

³¹ As above

disability benefits needs to recognise the reality of living with a condition like CF”.³²

The report notes that cystic fibrosis can be highly changeable, with people having “good days” and “bad days”. This can lead to those who apply for disability benefits on a good day “either being declined or otherwise being forced to describe their condition as it is on a ‘bad’ day which can lead to feelings of guilt, shame and stigma”.³³

The report also recommends an end to “unnecessary benefits reassessments” for people with long-term conditions such as cystic fibrosis, “so as to avoid people with CF continually going through benefit assessments despite no improvement in their health”.³⁴

Finally, the authors state that their findings confirm the need to raise the level of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), and to remove the 28 week cap on eligibility – recommendations made in a previous report from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust in June 2022.³⁵

³² As above, p44

³³ As above

³⁴ As above

³⁵ Earlam K, [The cost of cystic fibrosis 2022 \(PDF\)](#), Cystic Fibrosis Trust, June 2022

5 Parliamentary material

5.1 Commons Library

[Rising cost of living in the UK](#), CBP-9428, 23 January 2023

[Cost of Living Payments: Overview and FAQs](#), CBP-9616, 5 January 2023

[Energy Bills Support Scheme: Government policy and FAQs](#), CBP-9461, 9 August 2022

[Prescription charge exemption and cystic fibrosis](#), CDP-0022, 1 February 2022

5.2 Debates

[Cystic Fibrosis: Prescription Charge Exemption](#)

2 Feb 2022 | Debates | House of Commons | 708 cc168-187WH

5.3 Parliamentary questions

[Cystic Fibrosis: Drugs](#)

15 Dec 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 105493

Asked by: Feryal Clark

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if his Department will make an estimate of the number of people who require medication for cystic fibrosis who are not able to afford it.

Answered by: Neil O'Brien | Department of Health and Social Care

There are no plans to make a specific assessment. Approximately 89% of prescription items are currently dispensed free of charge and there are a range of exemptions from prescription charges which those with cystic fibrosis may be eligible for and be in receipt of free prescriptions. In 2022/23, prescription charges have been frozen, which applies to the single prescription charge and prescription pre-payment certificates.

[Cystic Fibrosis: Cost of Living](#)

14 Dec 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 104349

Asked by: Feryal Clark

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an

assessment of the potential impact of increases in the cost of living on people with (a) cystic fibrosis and (b) other long-term conditions.

Answered by: Helen Whately | Department of Health and Social Care

The Government is providing £37 billion to support households and businesses, including £15 billion for the most vulnerable. A further £26 billion will provide support to the most vulnerable households in 2023/24.

Cystic Fibrosis: Prescriptions

27 Sep 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 51798

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if she will make it her policy to provide free prescriptions to people with cystic fibrosis; and if she will consider the potential merits of ensuring that all people with long-term health conditions have access to free prescriptions.

Answered by: Robert Jenrick | Department of Health and Social Care

There are no current plans to review or extend the prescription charge medical exemptions list to include cystic fibrosis or other long-term conditions. Approximately 89% of prescription items are dispensed free of charge in England and there are arrangements in place to help those with the greatest need. Eligibility depends on the patient's age, whether they are in qualifying full-time education, whether they are pregnant or have recently given birth, or whether they are in receipt of certain benefits or a war pension. Those with cystic fibrosis or another long-term condition may therefore meet the eligibility criteria for prescription charge exemptions and be in receipt of free prescriptions.

To support those who do not qualify for an exemption of prescription charges, the cost of prescriptions can be capped by purchasing a prescription pre-payment certificate, which can be paid for in instalments. A holder of a 12-month certificate can get all the prescriptions they need for just over £2 per week. Additionally, people on a low income who do not qualify for an exemption from prescription charges can also seek help under the NHS Low Income Service, which provides help with health costs on an income-related basis.

Cystic Fibrosis: Cost of Living Payments

21 Jul 2022 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 36932

Asked by: Feryal Clark

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the report from Cystic Fibrosis UK entitled The cost of cystic fibrosis 2022, what steps her Department is taking to support people with cystic fibrosis during the cost of living crisis.

Answered by: Chloe Smith | Department for Work and Pensions

The Government is committed to supporting people living with long term health conditions, including cystic fibrosis.

Currently, no specific assessment has been made of the impact of cystic fibrosis on employment for people. However a range of Government initiatives are supporting disabled people and people with health conditions, including cystic fibrosis, to start, stay and succeed in work. These include the Work and Health Programme, the Intensive Personalised Employment Support programme, Access to Work, Disability Confident and support in partnership with the health system, including Employment Advice in NHS Improving Access to Psychological Therapy services. We will be investing £1.3bn in employment support for disabled people and people with health conditions over the next three years.

The Government continues to recognise the difficulties carers have in maintaining links to paid work whilst undertaking caring responsibilities. The Government is committed to supporting all individuals and businesses to work flexibly and recently consulted on measures to strengthen the existing right to request flexible working framework. The consultation ran from September to December 2021. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is currently analysing over 1,600 consultation responses received and will be publishing the next steps in due course.

The Government wants to help carers combine their caring responsibilities with work where they can. Jobcentres can provide support to those carers looking for employment. This will be tailored to their individual needs and circumstances and could range from simply sign-posting them to local vacancies to more intensive employment and training support.

Alongside employment measures such as flexible working, the Government gives carers access to financial support when they need it, by ensuring the benefit systems (including Carer's Allowance and Universal Credit) meet the needs of eligible carers and support employment for those carers who are able to do some work.

The Government understands the pressures people are facing with the cost of living which is why it is providing over £37 billion of support this year. People with cystic fibrosis who receive a qualifying means-tested benefit may be eligible for the £650 Cost of Living Payment which is designed to target support at low-income households. In addition, if they receive a disability-related benefit such as Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment, they may also be eligible for a disability Cost of Living Payment of £150.

All domestic electricity customers will also benefit from the £400 support being provided through the Energy Bills Support Scheme. We are also providing an additional £500 million to help households with the cost of essentials, on top of what we have already provided since October 2021,

bringing the total funding for this support to £1.5 billion. In England, the current Household Support Fund is already providing £421m of support for the period 1 April – 30 September 2022 and will be extended until March 2023 with a further £421m.

People with cystic fibrosis may be entitled to support of up to £156.90 a week, tax free, from the extra costs benefits: Attendance Allowance; Disability Living Allowance; and Personal Independence Payment.

6 News articles and press releases

[New report shows living with cystic fibrosis comes with annual extra £6.5k price tag](#)

University of Bristol
24 January 2023

[Cystic fibrosis living cost more than £6,500, Bristol research says](#)

BBC
25 January 2023

[People with cystic fibrosis are concerned about their health as costs soar](#)

Metro UK
15 July 2022

[People with cystic fibrosis may face a stark choice as the cost of living soars](#)

Royal College of Physicians
20 May 2022

Disclaimer

The Commons Library does not intend the information in our research publications and briefings to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. We have published it to support the work of MPs. You should not rely upon it as legal or professional advice, or as a substitute for it. We do not accept any liability whatsoever for any errors, omissions or misstatements contained herein. You should consult a suitably qualified professional if you require specific advice or information. Read our briefing '[Legal help: where to go and how to pay](#)' for further information about sources of legal advice and help. This information is provided subject to the conditions of the Open Parliament Licence.

Sources and subscriptions for MPs and staff

We try to use sources in our research that everyone can access, but sometimes only information that exists behind a paywall or via a subscription is available. We provide access to many online subscriptions to MPs and parliamentary staff, please contact hoclbraryonline@parliament.uk or visit commonslibrary.parliament.uk/resources for more information.

Feedback

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email papers@parliament.uk. Please note that authors are not always able to engage in discussions with members of the public who express opinions about the content of our research, although we will carefully consider and correct any factual errors.

You can read our feedback and complaints policy and our editorial policy at commonslibrary.parliament.uk. If you have general questions about the work of the House of Commons email hcenquiries@parliament.uk.

The House of Commons Library is a research and information service based in the UK Parliament. Our impartial analysis, statistical research and resources help MPs and their staff scrutinise legislation, develop policy, and support constituents.

Our published material is available to everyone on commonslibrary.parliament.uk.

Get our latest research delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe at commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe or scan the code below:



 commonslibrary.parliament.uk

 [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary)