# MPs call for urgent action on soaring energy prices



A cross-party group of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the UK is calling for urgent action to address soaring energy prices, which they deem among the highest in the world. Recent reports indicate that the UK has recorded the highest prices for domestic and industrial electricity when compared to 25 leading countries in 2023.

The Public Accounts Committee, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, is advocating for a comprehensive strategy to safeguard consumers, particularly in light of the country’s increasing reliance on renewable energy sources. Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown highlighted the need for clarity regarding future energy provision, especially during periods of low wind and sunlight, which could leave households vulnerable. He questioned, “when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine,” how will the nation be sufficiently powered.

The MPs' concerns extend beyond just pricing; they are alarmed by the alarming levels of debt accumulating among UK bill-payers. Last year, the total amount owed for both domestic electricity and gas surged to over £3.7 billion, a steep increase from £1.8 billion in 2021. The alarming rise in energy costs is attributed to various factors, notably the repercussions of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which caused prices to escalate dramatically from £1,277 in winter 2021-22 to over £4,000 by early 2023.

The committee believes that existing government support schemes are inadequate to protect households from potential future price surges. They express concern that the government is overly optimistic about the potential for renewable energy to drive long-term reductions in energy bills. Conservative MP Rebecca Paul, also a member of the committee, articulated the distress felt by many citizens over the rising energy costs, stating, “Unaffordable electricity bills are negatively impacting millions of people. The UK’s bills are some of the highest, pushing people to choose between heating and eating.” Paul underscored that the current focus on achieving net-zero carbon emissions may be detracting from urgent considerations of energy security and affordability.

As the winter months approach, the MPs’ call for action becomes increasingly pressing, as many households face tough decisions related to basic necessities. They insist that a balanced approach to energy policy is essential to prioritise the welfare of the country and its citizens.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/money/energy-bill-warning-britain-pay-highest-in-world> - This article supports the claim that the UK has the highest electricity prices in the developed world, especially for industrial users. It highlights the challenges faced by UK businesses due to soaring energy costs.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/09/26/britain-burdened-most-expensive-electricity-prices-in-world> - The Telegraph confirms that the UK is paying the highest electricity prices globally, with industrial costs increasing significantly over the past five years. This affects the competitiveness of UK industries.
* <https://reports.electricinsights.co.uk/q4-2024/why-are-britains-power-prices-the-highest-in-the-world> - This report provides insights into why UK power prices are among the highest in the world, citing factors like infrastructure costs, energy policies, and wholesale pricing mechanisms.
* <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/energy-statistics> - OFGEM provides statistical insights into UK energy markets, which can help understand the rising energy costs and challenges in energy pricing.
* <https://parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/> - The Public Accounts Committee's official page details their role and responsibilities, which include examining energy-related issues and advocating for consumer protections.