

# Keeping the lights on: the case for an energy social tariff

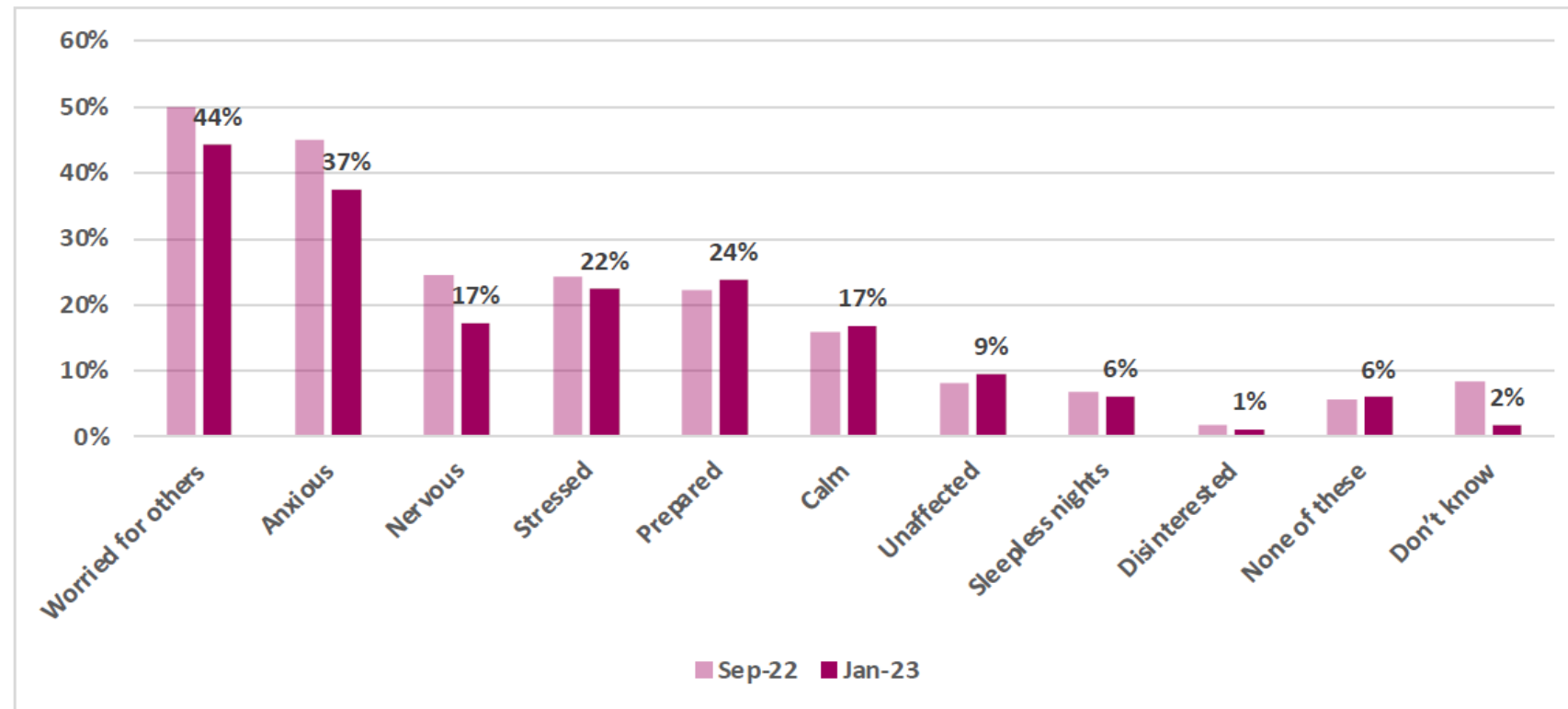
Consumer policy team

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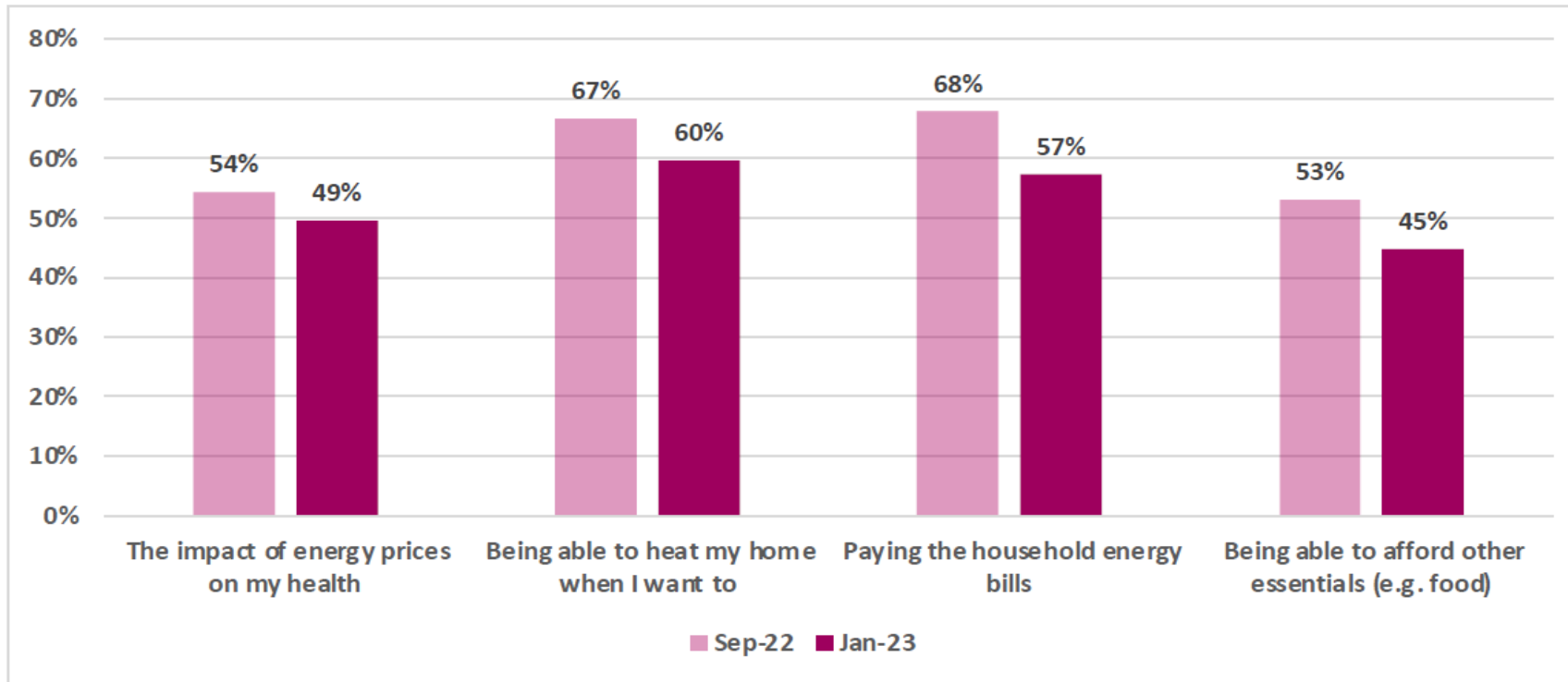


**Figure 3: 'Thinking about energy prices at the moment, which, if any, of the following explain how you are currently feeling?'**



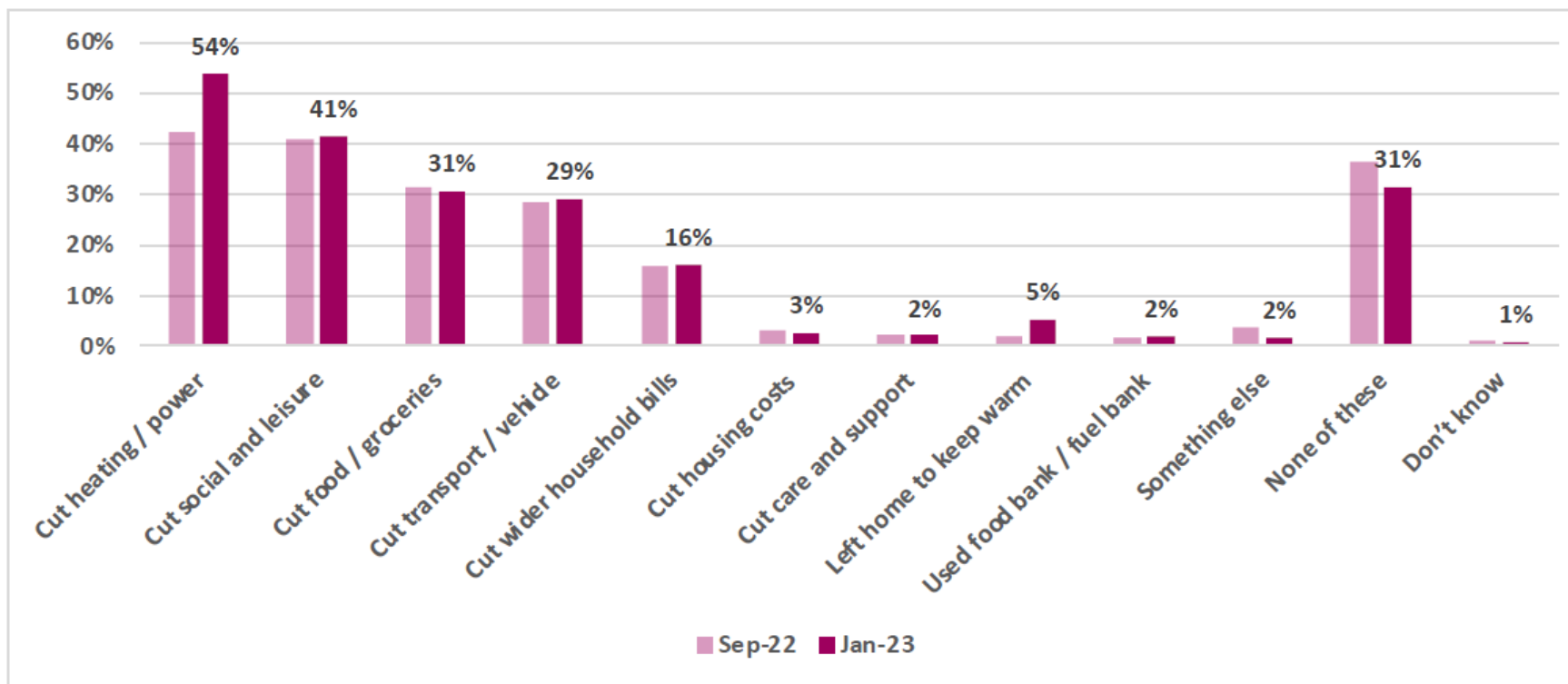
Multiple choice. Source: Online and CATI survey conducted by Opinium on behalf of Age UK between 2nd - 20th September 2022 (1,402 adults aged 60+) and repeated 2nd and 30th January 2023 (2,700 adults aged 60+). Sample is Great Britain only and weighted to be nationally representative of the 60+ GB population.

**Figure 4: Percentage who stated ‘somewhat’ or ‘very worried’ when asked ‘thinking about energy prices at the moment, how worried, if at all, are you about each of the following?’.**



Source: Online and CATI survey conducted by Opinium on behalf of Age UK between 2nd - 20th September 2022 (1,402 adults aged 60+) and repeated 2nd and 30th January 2023 (2,700 adults aged 60+). Sample is Great Britain only and weighted to be nationally representative of the 60+ GB population.

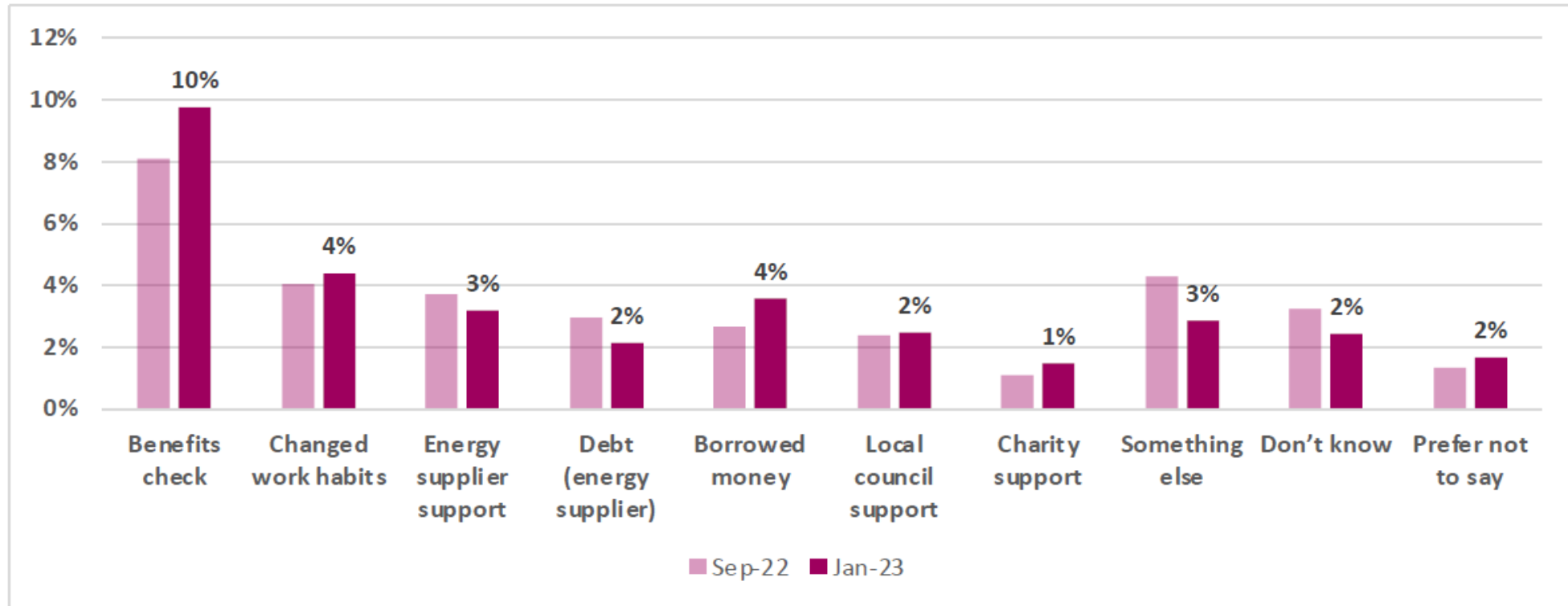
**Figure 5: Presents the results from respondents asked what recent spending cuts they have made and what else they have done to try and make ends meet recently.**



Source: Online and CATI survey conducted by Opinium on behalf of Age UK between 2nd - 20th September 2022 (1,402 adults aged 60+) and repeated 2nd and 30th January 2023 (2,700 adults aged 60+). Sample is Great Britain only and weighted to be nationally representative of the 60+ GB population.

What are older people (60+) cutting to make ends meet

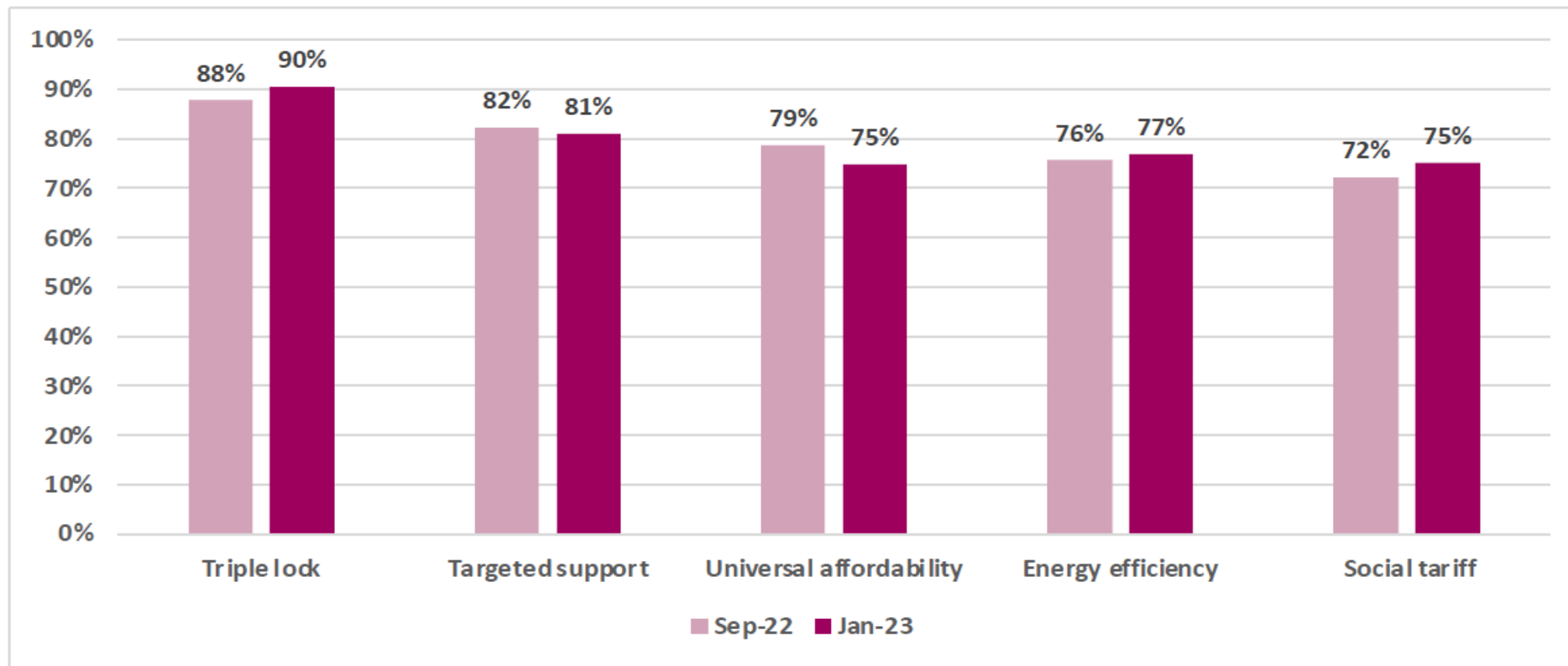
**Figure 6: Presents the results from respondents asked what they have done recently to boost their income or where they have gone to seek support.**



Source: Online and CATI survey conducted by Opinium on behalf of Age UK between 2nd - 20th September 2022 (1,402 adults aged 60+) and repeated 2nd and 30th January 2023 (2,700 adults aged 60+). Sample is Great Britain only and weighted to be nationally representative of the 60+ GB population.

What are older people (60+) doing to boost their incomes

**Figure 7: Proportions of respondents who agreed with five statements relating to policy options<sup>24</sup>.**



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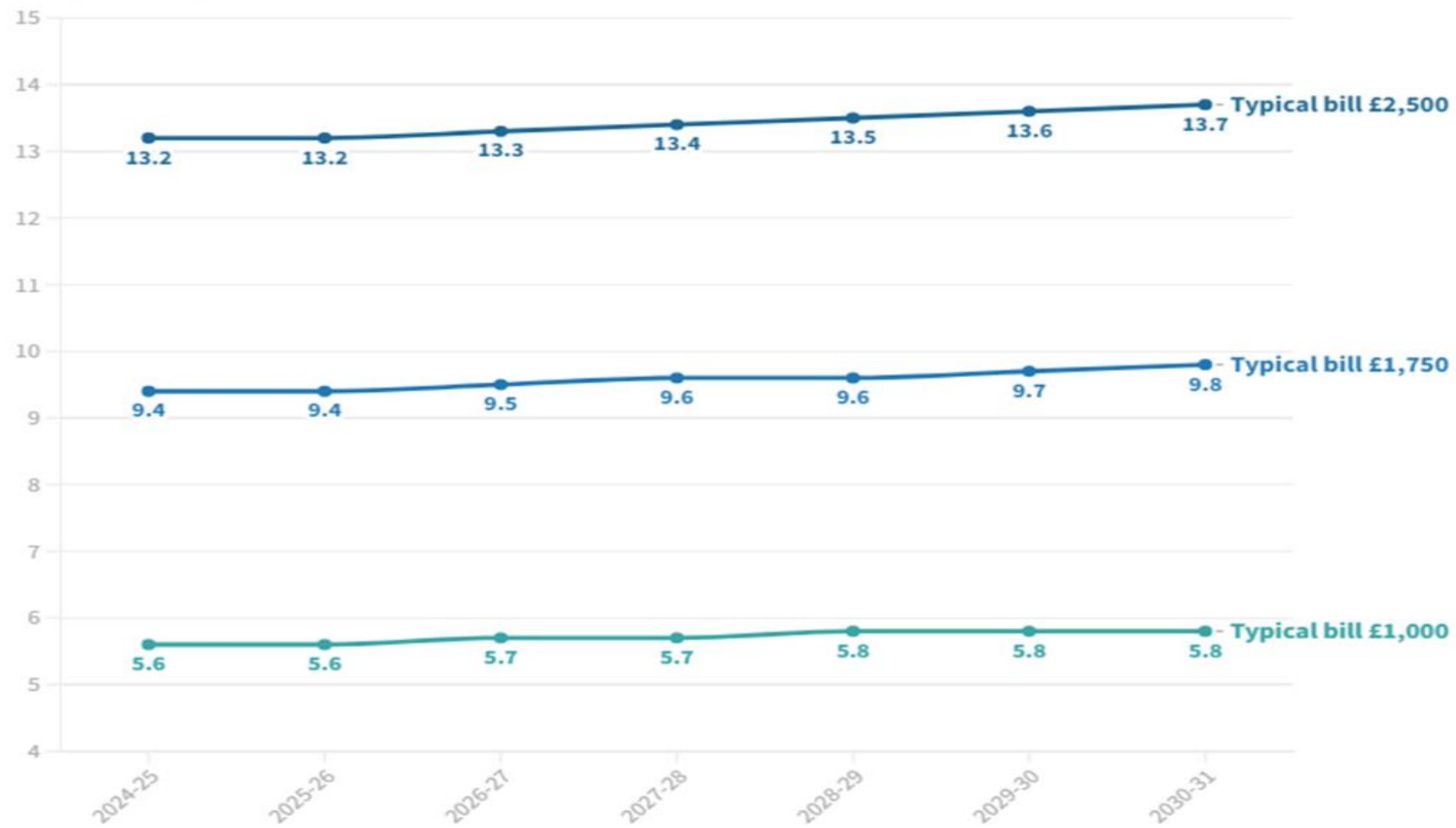
- Discount bills by 50% for eligible households
- Target those in greatest need both on and off the benefits system
- Automatically enrol eligible households
- Be universal across suppliers
- Sit alongside existing consumer protections
- Support all eligible domestic consumers (e.g. fixed tariffs, alternative fuels)

- 1) Recipients of means tested benefits**
- 2) Recipients of disability benefits**
- 3) Recipients of Carer's Allowance**
- 4) All of those living in relative poverty**
- 5) Ringfenced flexible support fund**

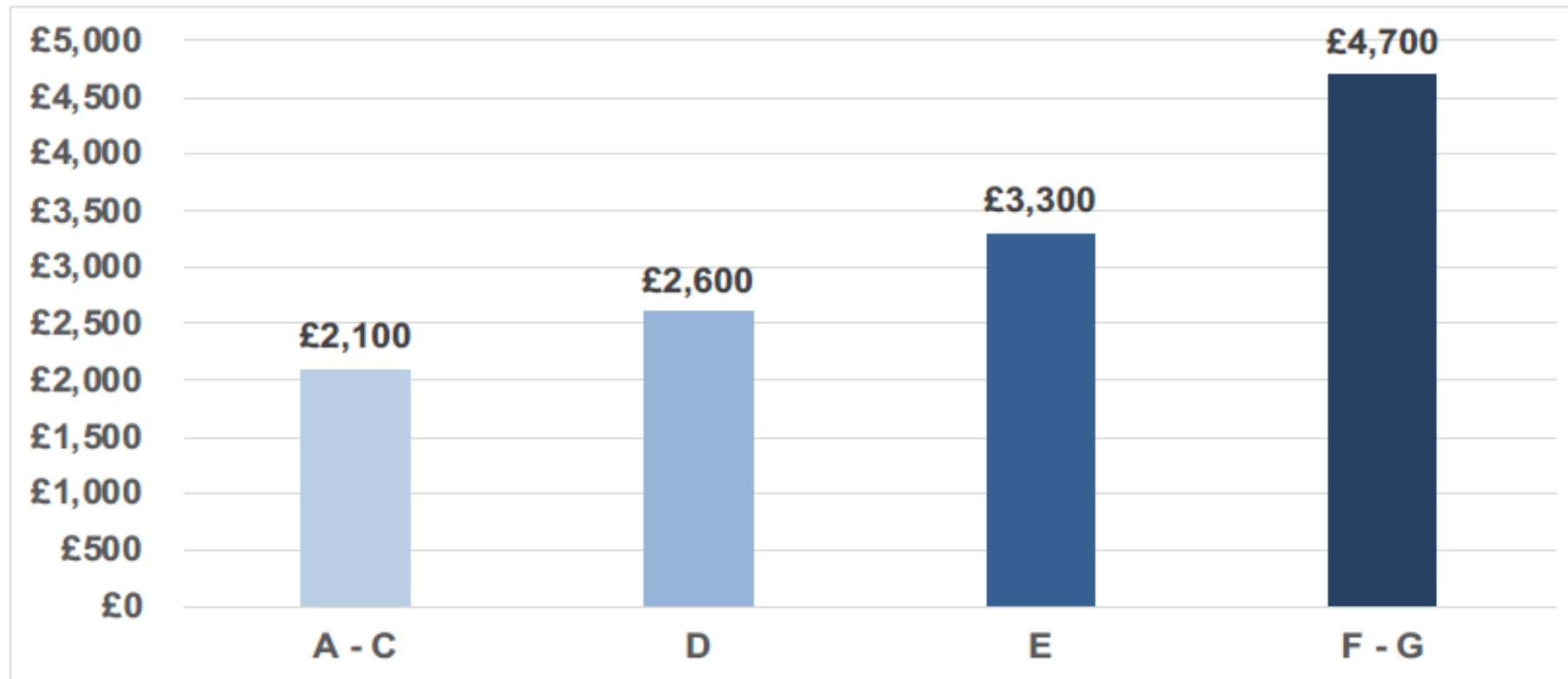




Cost (£ billions)



**Figure 9: Typical annual energy bill (based on January 2023 prices) by the Environmental Performance Certificate (EPC) band of the home.**



Age UK analysis of Fuel Poverty Dataset 2019; DESNZ; Ofgem. Analysis accounts for the impact of the EPG and Warm Home Discount. The median value was used. Household sample sizes: A/B/C (5,684), D (5,058), E (906), F/G (326).

The case for a net zero social tariff

- The Government's target of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is incredibly important.
- A just transition to net zero is only possible if vulnerable households of all ages can keep their heating on and access improved household thermal efficiency.
- The energy social tariff and net zero are parallel workstreams in this regard – complementing one another in the fight to keep people warm and well.
  - Energy Company Obligation ECO+ funding will be key. Government should provide £1bn per annum and extend the scheme so it lasts at least five years.
  - The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) scheme should also receive £1bn of funding per year every year until 2032, to ensure all eligible households have the opportunity to access it.

How do we get a net zero social tariff?

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Report can be found at this link:  
<https://bit.ly/3Fkdp0o>