



Damian Hinds
MP for East Hampshire

News release

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For immediate release

Damian Hinds Supports Big Energy Week to Help People Cut Fuel Bills

Damian Hinds has hosted an event in the House of Commons to launch Big Energy Week, a campaign by the Citizens Advice Bureau, to raise awareness of how they can help households save money on their rising fuel bills.

During Big Energy Week, which runs from 16-21 January, Citizens Advice Bureau offices in East Hampshire are encouraging people to come and get practical advice on cutting their fuel bills and offering help to see if people are getting all of the financial support to which they are entitled.

Advisers from CAB offices in Alton, Petersfield and Whitehill & Bordon have been setting up stalls in High Streets and outside supermarkets this week to answer questions and give advice to anyone who is struggling to pay fuel bills.

Speaking after the formal launch of Big Energy Week in the House of Commons, Damian Hinds said



“These are difficult times for every household, we are all having to find ways to make what we have go further and save where we can. Unfortunately for many of us, the cost of keeping our homes warm keeps rising and rising. Big Energy Week is an opportunity for everyone to get help looking at their bill and finding a way to save that little bit which could make a big difference.

“I was pleased to be able to host this event in the House of Commons to widen awareness among other Members of Parliament.”

“I am very proud to support the campaign and I hope people will take this chance to get to know the local CAB who do so much good work in East Hampshire.”

Petersfield Advice Manager Amanda Whiteland-Smith said:

“More and more people are coming to us for advice on how to make ends meet, and the cost of fuel bills is a major issue. While we continue to help people on a daily basis with face to face advice –

there is a real need to reach out to more people who are struggling and Big Energy Week will be a chance for us to do just that.”

Throughout Big Energy Week, East Hants CABs will be giving people the following advice which could help them save money on their fuel bills:

- How to contact your supplier to check you are on the best tariff and payment method. Direct debit is approx £120 cheaper per year than paying by cash or cheque, on average.
- Help visiting an accredited switching website to see if you can get your energy cheaper elsewhere. As much as £200 per year may be saved by switching supplier, particularly if you have never changed energy firm.
- How to insulate the walls and loft of your home and save an average of £120 a year. See if you are eligible for free or discounted insulation from your supplier.
- Checking you are not missing out on any benefits or tax credits that could boost your income.

A new website – www.bigenergyweek.org.uk – has been launched with tips on how to cut your energy bills.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Picture to follow separately by email: Damian Hinds and Teresa Perchard, Director of Policy for CAB

The Citizens Advice service helps people resolve their legal, money and other problems by providing information and advice, and by influencing policy makers. CAB advice is free, independent, confidential and impartial, and available to everyone.

Most CAB staff are trained volunteers, working at over 3,500 locations across England and Wales including Alton Bordon and Petersfield. To contact Citizens Advice in East Hampshire call 0844 411 1306

For more information please contact

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