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### Government must intervene over energy price rises

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has called on the Government to meet with the 'big six' energy suppliers in an effort to agree a shared approach to tackling fuel poverty.

Cllr Hopkins was speaking in the wake of yesterday's announcement from British Gas that it had decided to increase the cost of gas to customers by 35% and electricity by 9%.

Its parent company, Centrica, this morning announced half-year profits of £992 million.

"Last year, research produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy found that Bradford district had the third highest in number of households living in fuel poverty," Cllr Hopkins commented.

"These latest energy price rises – with the promise of more to come – have significantly increased the numbers of local residents now at risk of serious illness and death, the most obvious consequences of fuel poverty.

"The Government's principal responsibility is to the wellbeing of the population and, with winter now getting closer, I am extremely concerned for the wellbeing of a great number of people with older citizens particularly in danger.

"I believe Ministers should urgently meet with the bosses of the big six energy suppliers and seek to ensure that vast numbers of people are not left to go cold this winter."

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