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**As price cap rises and Reeves axes winter fuel allowance...**

# PENSIONERS' £500 ENERGY BILL HIKE AFTER LABOUR CUTS

By **Harriet Line** and **Toby Walne**

**MILLIONS** of pensioners will have to find an extra £500 to heat their homes, piling pressure on Labour to reverse the axing of winter fuel payments.

In a brutal double whammy, the energy regulator yesterday announced it would hike the price cap by 10 per cent from October – equivalent to a £149 hit for the average household.

At the same time, 10million over-65s will lose out on the winter fuel payment – worth up to £300 – after Chancellor Rachel Reeves said it would be means tested.

Analysis by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition found that in real terms pensioners' bills will jump by 39 per cent – around £483 a year.

MPs and charities warned that withdrawing the payments when bills are set to soar will leave pensioners facing their 'worst winter on record'. They urged Ms Reeves to think again last night as it emerged she had carried out 'no impact assessment' before stripping the

Turn to Page 4



SEE PAGES 10-11

Apology: Jermaine Jenas revealed his marriage is under strain in an interview last night

Picture: THE SUN