

Relief for UK Households as Energy Bill Struggles Begin to Ease

July 1, 2025

— Categories: General News



The number of households struggling to pay their energy bills in the UK has fallen, according to new data, offering a tentative sign of relief for consumers following months of high living costs. The figures, released by the energy regulator Ofgem and consumer watchdogs, suggest that fewer people are now falling behind on gas and electricity payments compared to the peak of the energy crisis last year.

Analysts attribute the improvement to a combination of factors, including lower wholesale energy prices, government support schemes over the winter, and a mild reduction in overall energy usage. Energy suppliers also report that payment plans, and customer engagement strategies have helped more households stay on track. While the fall in arrears is modest, it represents the first significant downward trend in over two years.

According to the latest statistics, the number of customers in debt has dropped by several percentage points since the beginning of the year. Energy companies have noted a decrease in late payments, with more households managing to meet at least the minimum monthly contributions. Some suppliers have expanded hardship funds and support lines, which have been credited with helping vulnerable customers better manage rising costs.

Despite this progress, experts warn that many households remain in a precarious position. Charities and advocacy groups say that a significant number of families, particularly those on low incomes or with prepayment meters, continue to face energy poverty. They caution that while the worst of the crisis may be easing, affordability remains a critical issue, especially as government energy subsidies wind down.

Ofgem has acknowledged the improvement but emphasized the need for sustained support and long-term reforms. The regulator is urging suppliers to maintain flexible repayment plans, prioritize vulnerable customers, and avoid aggressive debt collection practices. Consumer groups are calling for further protections, including a social tariff for low-income households to ensure essential energy remains accessible.

The recent drop in payment difficulties is a welcome development, but many say the energy system must undergo structural change to ensure all consumers can afford to keep their homes warm and lights on, regardless of market volatility.