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PENSIONERS risk freezing to death this winter because soaring energy bills will force many to switch off their heating, the Government was warned yesterday.

By SARAH O'GRADY

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Pensioners risk of freezing to death this winter because of rocketing fuel prices. (Image: Getty Images)

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The UK's biggest pensioner charity Age UK described their plight as a "national disgrace". And former Pensions Minister Ros Altmann issued a stark warning that urgent Government action is needed to safeguard older people's health.

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Baroness Altmann said: "The problem for pensioners is that not being able to keep warm costs lives. We're not just talking about being a bit strapped for cash, we're talking about health deterioration or death."