

Councillor
Kelly Parry
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Midlothian



Tuesday 29 September 2026

The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Urgent action needed to cap fuel prices

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing as Leader of Midlothian Council to urge the UK Government to take immediate action to cap petrol and diesel prices and protect households, workers and essential public services from further increases.

As of 24 September 2026, petrol in Scotland is averaging around 174.7p per litre, with diesel at around 199.1p, putting significant additional pressure on household budgets.

For many Midlothian residents, a car is not a luxury but a necessity. People rely on their vehicles to get to work, take children to school, attend medical appointments and access essential services. This is particularly true in communities where public transport cannot provide a practical alternative.

At these prices, filling a 55-litre tank costs around **£96 for petrol and £109 for diesel**. For families already facing increased costs across housing, food and energy, that is a substantial additional burden.

The pressure is equally real for Midlothian Council.

We provide essential services across a rapidly growing area, including waste collection, roads, environmental services, housing, social care and community services. Many depend on vehicles and fuel, while staff delivering services across our communities also need to travel.

Every increase in fuel costs therefore places further pressure on a Council budget already facing difficult financial choices. It also affects our workforce, particularly employees who rely on their cars to commute or travel between locations as part of their duties.

We are committed to transitioning towards cleaner and more efficient vehicles, but that cannot happen overnight. In the meantime, we must continue to operate the vehicles needed to deliver essential services.

I am therefore asking the UK Government to introduce a **temporary cap on petrol and diesel prices**, or an equivalent measure that delivers an immediate reduction and provides greater certainty for households, businesses and public services.

The Government has taxation and duty levers at its disposal and should use them to prevent motorists and public services bearing the full impact of rapidly rising fuel prices.

This is about ensuring people can afford to get to work, families can maintain their daily lives and councils can continue delivering the services communities depend upon.

I would welcome an urgent response setting out what action the UK Government will take to bring fuel prices down and protect households, workers and essential public services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kerry Parry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Parry
Leader of Midlothian Council