

# **Low Income Winter Heating Assistance (LIWHA)**

## **Consultation Document**

### **Easy Read Version**



This Easy Read document has the information you will need to help you reply to the **consultation** on the new **Low Income Winter Heating Assistance (LIWHA)**.

The statements we would like you to think about are on a separate paper.

There is also a paper to give you more information to help you decide what you think.

When you reply to a **consultation** you need to fill in a **respondent form**. There is an easy read version to go with this.

Sometimes there are words that are harder to understand. These words are in **bold**. There is a word list and their meanings at the back of this document.



## A message from Ben MacPherson MSP.

Ben MacPherson is the Minister for Social Security and Local Government. This is his message.



We want to hear what you think about the new **Low Income Winter Heating Assistance. (LIWHA)**

When we make changes like this, we ask people what they think about it. This is called a **consultation**.



This **consultation** is about a new benefit payment. It will be instead of the **Cold Weather Payment scheme (CWP)** we have now.

**LIWHA** will start from the winter of 2022.



Scottish Government think that the **Cold Weather Payment** is not working for everyone who might need it. We want to make it fairer for everyone.



We want people to be sure they will get a payment wherever in Scotland they live.



We aim to give everyone who qualifies a one off **£50 payment**.



We want to hear what you think about this. Please reply to the **consultation**.



Thank you for taking time to do this.

**Ben Macpherson MSP**  
Minister for Social Security and Local Government



The **consultation** will show the aims of the new payment.

It also shows how it will help towards the cost of heating in the winter.



We want to know if it will help those who need it most.



People will help us find the best ways to give this help. It will also help us write the rules for it.



People will be affected by how we do things. These are:



- People who have already got **Cold Weather Payments**
- People who would likely receive payments if they meet the rules
- Anyone living in Scotland who qualifies for payment



Organisations who support people might also be interested in the consultation.

This includes:

- Welfare Rights
- Fuel Poverty organisations
- Local Authorities



We want to hear from different people. This includes:

- People who are receiving **qualifying benefits**
- Organisations who support people

This will help us to find the best way to do things.

We also want to know what you think about the effects of Scottish Government being in control of these benefits on:



- Different groups
- Businesses

We want the **consultation** to be as accessible as possible.



To do this, we will also hold events. We want people to take part.

This will give you the chance to talk to us about your experiences and views.

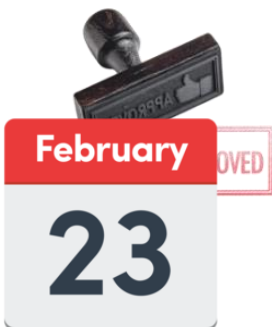


We will look closely at all the things you tell us.



We will use them to write the new rules. This is called a **policy**.

The **policy** will have to be approved by Scottish Government.



We would like you to reply by **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**.

For more information about LIWHA go to:

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/winter-heating-benefits>

You can email your replies to:

[WinterBenefitsPolicy@gov.scot](mailto:WinterBenefitsPolicy@gov.scot)





or send to:

Social Security Policy Division

Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits Policy

Unit

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ



People might be able to get help to pay for heating in winter if:

- They already get a **qualifying benefit**
- They might be able to get a **qualifying benefit**



The **qualifying benefits** are:

- Income Support (IS)
- Income Based Job Seekers allowance (JSA (IB))
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance (ESA (IR))
- Universal Credit (UC)
- Support for Mortgage Interest Loan (MSI)





If you want to know if you qualify for any of these benefits go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>



The new **LIWHA** will be paid to everyone in Scotland who already qualifies for the **CWP**.



They would get a single payment of **£50** every winter.



The payment will not depend on changes in the weather conditions.



We estimate that **LIWHA** will pay out **£20 million** to about **400,000** people each year.

## **Word List**

<b>Consultation</b>	<b>When we ask people to tell us what they think about something. This could be something new or a change to something.</b>
<b>Cold Weather Payment (CWP)</b>	<b>The old winter heating payment we want to replace.</b>

<b>Data Protection</b>	<b>The Law that tells us how we have to keep information safe and private.</b>
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	<b>The things about you that mean you are able to apply for a benefit.</b>
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	<b>When you cannot afford to pay to heat your home.</b>
<b>Low Income Winter Heating Assistance LIWHA</b>	<b>The new benefit to help you heat your home in winter.</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>A policy tells us the rules or laws we have to keep to.</b>
<b>Protected characteristics</b>	<b>All of the different ways you can be discriminated because of.</b>
<b>Qualifying criteria</b>	<b>This means you meet the rules to apply for a benefit.</b>

<b>Qualifying benefits</b>	<b>A benefit you already get that means you can apply for the payment.</b>
<b>Redetermination</b>	<b>Looking at your application to see if we can give you the benefit.</b>
<b>Respondent form</b>	<b>The form you have to send to us along with your questionnaire paper.</b>
<b>Social Security Scotland Act 2018</b>	<b>The law that helps us to provide social security in Scotland.</b>



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The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Published by The Scottish Government, February 2022

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS1017118 (02/22)

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