

Winter Heating Assistance

Q: What are you doing with Winter Fuel Payments?

We will make the first new payments of Winter Heating Assistance to families with a severely disabled child in 2020. This will be a payment of £200.

The first new WHA payments for people over the state pension age will be made from the end of 2021.

We've made it clear that no one should lose out as we bring in Winter Heating Assistance. Eligibility for Winter Heating Assistance will continue to be automatic and based upon the current Winter Fuel Payment system. We don't propose to change the tax free status of these payments.

Cold Spell Heating Assistance

Q: What are you doing with Cold Weather Payments?

We will begin to pay Cold Spell Heating Assistance from the end of 2021 (subject to the weather).

We've made it clear that no one should lose out as a result of the change to Cold Spell Heating Assistance and this will be reflected in the eligibility criteria.

Our first priority is ensuring continued safe and secure payments to people vulnerable to the impact of cold weather.

The first payments of the new benefit will not be different from existing Cold Weather Payments so the amount of benefit paid will be protected.

We recognise that the current benefit doesn't fully meet the needs of people in Scotland and we will consider ways we can improve it. In developing the new Cold Spell Heating Assistance benefit we will seek a wide range of expert opinion and look to design processes that better reflect the needs and experiences of Scottish households.

For further information on Winter Heating Assistance and Cold Spell Heating Assistance go to:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/help-with-heating-costs/>