

WINTER HEATING BENEFITS
STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUP
LOW INCOME WINTER HEATING
ASSISTANCE (LIWHA)
CONSULTATION

Monday 17 Jan 2022



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATE ON THE DEVOLUTION OF WINTER HEATING BENEFITS AND LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

- ▶ Previous intention was to introduce like-for-like Scottish benefits to replace both Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) and Cold Weather Payment (CWP) in Winter 2021.
- ▶ Work on the Scottish replacements for Cold Weather Payments and Winter Fuel Payment was temporarily paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ We have now committed to replacing the UK Government's CWP with a new Low Income Winter Heating Assistance (LIWHA) payment in Winter 2022
- ▶ We will also replace the UK Government's Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) in winter 2024. We will consult on proposals for that benefit separately.



AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATE ON THE DEVOLUTION OF WINTER HEATING BENEFITS AND LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE CONT'D

LIWHA Legislative timeline

Activity	Date
Consultation closes	23 Feb 2022
Consider consultation responses. Independent analysis of responses carried out. Analysis report and SG response published.	Feb/Mar 2022
Draft Regulations to SCoSS for scrutiny (along with policy note and Impact Assessments)	Apr 2022
SCoSS publishes report on draft Regulations.	Jul 2022
Regulations finalised.	Sep 2022
Regulations laid.	Oct 2022
Regulations come into force (can be any time from 54 days after being laid).	Dec 2022
First LIWHA payments made.	Feb 2023



AGENDA ITEM 3: LOW INCOME WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE (LIWHA) – AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED NEW BENEFIT

What is Low Income Winter Heating Assistance?

- ▶ Single annual payment of £50 to replace the current DWP Cold Weather Payment in Scotland from winter 2022.
- ▶ Eligibility based on receipt of low income benefits during an annual qualifying week; no longer triggered by a period of cold weather.
- ▶ It will provide a guaranteed payment to around 400,000 low-income households currently eligible for Cold Weather Payments – an investment of around £20 million every year.



AGENDA ITEM 3: LOW INCOME WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE (LIWHA) – AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED NEW BENEFIT CONT'D

Cold Weather Payment Details	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Cold Spell Triggers	29	22	11	61	25	7	76
Total No. of Eligible CWP recipients	380,000	415,000	409,000	393,000	385,000	365,000	402,000
No. of whom in receipt of Pension Credit	205,000	183,000	173,000	158,000	148,000	139,000	133,000
Total no. of payments	268,000	136,000	31,000	818,000	385,000	7,000	854,000
No. of payments to those in receipt of Pension Credit	148,000	65,000	15,000	333,000	147,000	3,000	289,000
Total no. of individual CWP recipients	226,000	119,000	26,000	387,000	320,000	4,000	398,000
No. of individual CWP recipients in receipt of Pension Credit	121,000	56,000	13,000	155,000	148,000	1,000	129,000
Total expenditure	£7,285,000	£3,480,000	£745,000	£21,520,000	£10,230,000	£225,000	£21,350,000
Expenditure to those in receipt of Pension Credit	£3,695,000	£1,600,000	£400,000	£8,300,000	£3,675,000	£75,000	£7,225,000



AGENDA ITEM 3: LOW INCOME WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE (LIWHA) – AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED NEW BENEFIT CONT'D

Consultation

- ▶ We are now consulting on the proposals for Low Income Winter Heating Assistance.
- ▶ The consultation is live and will be open for responses until 23 February 2022.
- ▶ We intend to principally to gather views on:
 - ▶ Policy aim: LIWHA will provide more money, greater dependability and better targeting.
 - ▶ Removing weather dependency.
 - ▶ Eligibility criteria (qualifying benefits).
 - ▶ Value of payment.
 - ▶ Key annual dates – September qualifying week and February payment.
 - ▶ Unintended consequences.
- ▶ We want to hear from both the households who have applied for and benefited from Cold Weather Payments and key stakeholders with an interest in this benefit.



AGENDA ITEM 4: BREAK OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION ON KEY QUESTIONS OF THE CONSULTATION

Policy Intention

- ▶ Should we replace CWP with a new benefit whose eligibility is based solely on receipt of a low income benefit and not on reaching a specific temperature for a period of time?
- ▶ Is Low Income Winter Heating Assistance an appropriate name for this new payment?
- ▶ Do you think this is an effective way for the Scottish Government to provide support towards winter heating costs for people on low incomes?



AGENDA ITEM 4: BREAK OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION ON KEY QUESTIONS OF THE CONSULTATION CONT'D

Eligibility

- ▶ Should we continue to identify a person's eligibility through the award of other qualifying benefits?
- ▶ Should we retain the current qualifying benefits to indicate eligibility?
- ▶ Are the eligibility criteria for LIWHA clear?



AGENDA ITEM 4: BREAK OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION ON KEY QUESTIONS OF THE CONSULTATION CONT'D

Amount and Format of Payment

- ▶ What are your thoughts on the proposed rate of £50 for LIWHA?
- ▶ Should this continue to be a cash payment?
- ▶ When is the most appropriate time during the winter period to make these payments?



AGENDA ITEM 4: BREAK OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION ON KEY QUESTIONS OF THE CONSULTATION CONT'D

Impact of Payment

- ▶ Are there any potential unintended consequences which we have not considered in these proposals?



AGENDA ITEM 4: BREAK OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION ON KEY QUESTIONS OF THE CONSULTATION CONT'D

GROUP FEEDBACK



Consultation On Low Income Winter Heating Assistance (LIWHA)

December 2021



Consultation Website: [Winter heating benefits: low income winter heating assistance - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](https://www.consult.gov.scot/consultations/winter-heating-benefits-low-income-winter-heating-assistance-scottish-government-citizen-space)

Consultation Document: [Low Income Winter Heating Assistance \(LIWHA\): consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultations/liwha/consultation-2021-12-20/documents/default.docx)

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