

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics: Winter 2022/2023

Key figures

As of 31 March 2023:

- A total of 26,555 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments had been issued for Winter 2022/2023 [**Table 1a**].
- The total value of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments issued for winter 2022/2023 was £5.7 million [**Table 1c**].
- The total value of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments issued since November 2020 was £13.4 million [**Table 1c**].

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Child Winter Heating Assistance for Winter 2023/2024 will be released in 2024.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Introduction

This publication provides information on children and young people who benefitted from, and recipients of, Child Winter Heating Assistance payments for winter 2022/2023. This publication covers payments issued to 31 March 2023 and provides updated figures for payments for winters of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

Winter 2022/2023 refers to payments relating to the qualifying week of September 2022. Winters 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 refer to payments relating to the qualifying week of September 2020 and 2021, respectively.

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced in November 2020 by Scottish Ministers and is administered by Social Security Scotland. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an automatic payment for children and young people under 19. The payment for winter 2022/2023 was £214.10.

To be eligible, children and young people must receive the highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment or Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment or Personal Independence Payment.

The child or young person must be entitled to receive the qualifying benefit at this rate for at least one day of the qualifying week, which is the week beginning with the third Monday in September every year. In 2022, this was the week beginning Monday 19 September. The [Background Note](#) has further details on eligibility.

All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

The statistics for Child Winter Heating Assistance are being published as experimental statistics, which are defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics as “new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage.” These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, so have not been designated as National Statistics³.

³ For more information on experimental statistics please see the [Office for Statistics Regulation website](#).

Winter 2022/2023

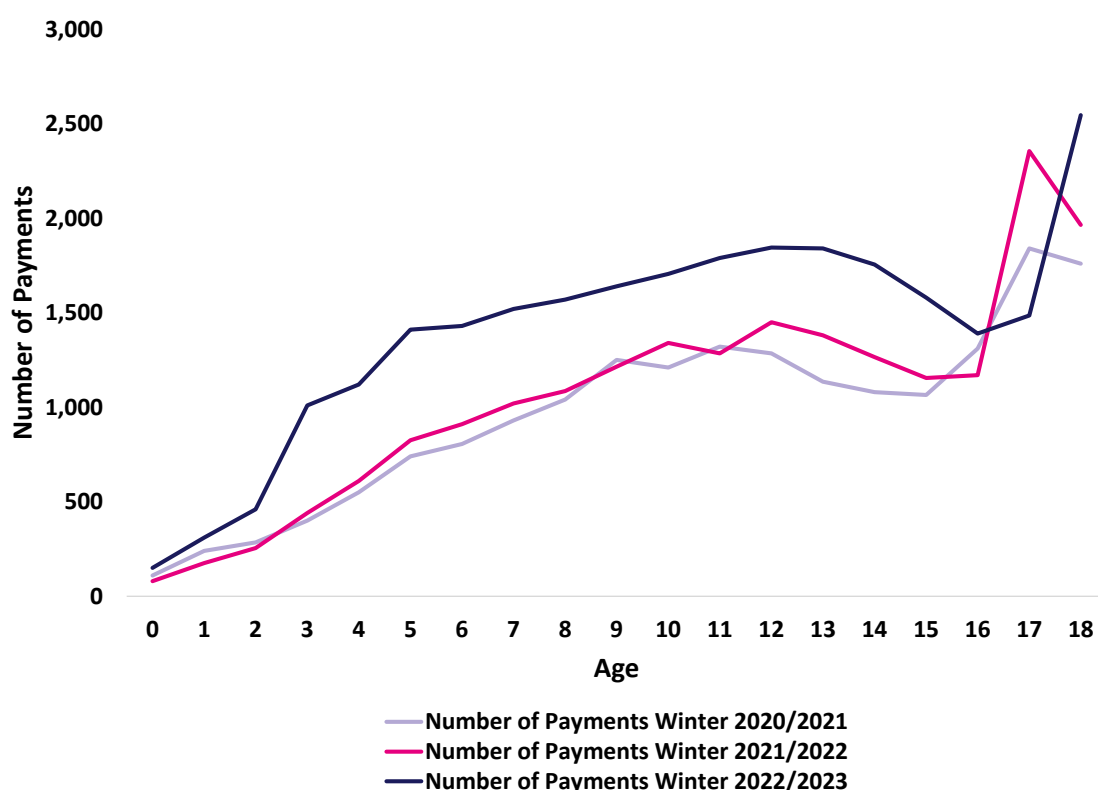
Number of payments

- By 31 March 2023, 26,555 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments had been made for children or young people eligible in the qualifying week of September 2022 [Table 1a, Chart 4].
- Each payment was for £214.10. The total expenditure for winter 2022/2023 was £5.7 million. The expenditure for winter 2022/2023 was higher than the expenditure for winter 2021/2022, which was £4.0 million [Table 1c].

Payments by child or young person's age

- Overall, the number of children or young people who received payment generally increased for almost every age compared to the previous winter. The only age where the number decreased was 17 [Table 1b, Chart 1].
- For winter 2022/2023, over half of payments were for children aged 0 to 11. The number of children in receipt generally increased from age 0 to age 12. Above age 12, the number of children in receipt decreased with age, to age 16. The number of young people in receipt then increased to age 18. Ages 17 and 18 accounted for 16% of payments in winter 2022/2023 [Table 1b, Chart 1].

Chart 1: Number of payments by age of child or young person for each winter



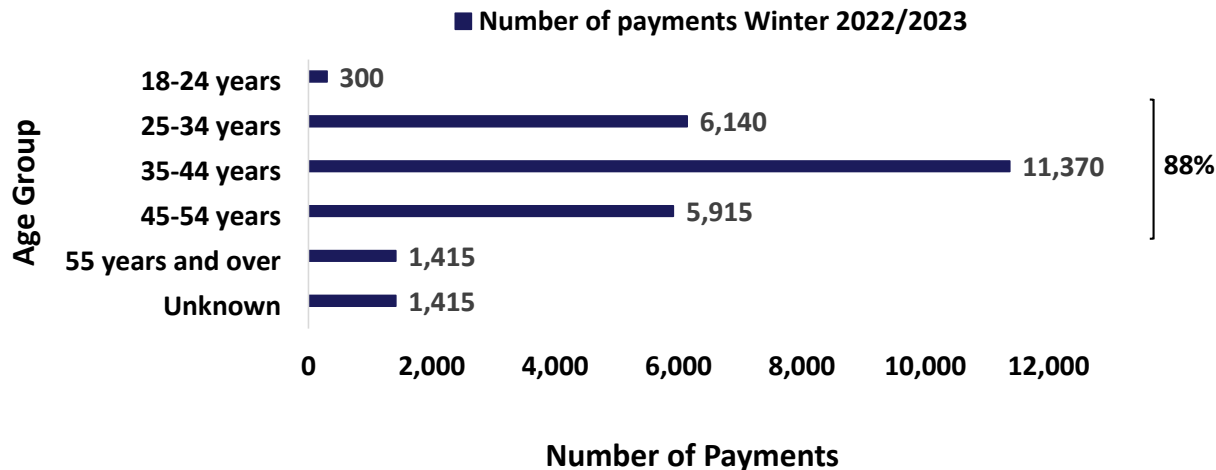
Number of recipients

- In this publication, the word ‘recipient’ is used to describe someone who a Child Winter Heating Assistance payment is issued to, to be used for the benefit of the child or young person. Recipients may include, for example, parents, guardians or organisations acting on behalf of a child or young person. Types of recipient are described further in the [background note](#).
- At least 23,890 different recipients received payments. Of these, 7% received more than one payment [Table 2a].
- There were an additional 795 payments issued where recipient National Insurance Number was missing. It is not possible to determine whether these were an additional 795 different individuals [Table 2d].

Payments by age of recipient

- Around 43% of recipients receiving payment were aged 35 to 44, with 88% aged 24 to 54 [Table 3b, Chart 2]. This is as expected given that many recipients will be parents or guardians of children or young people.

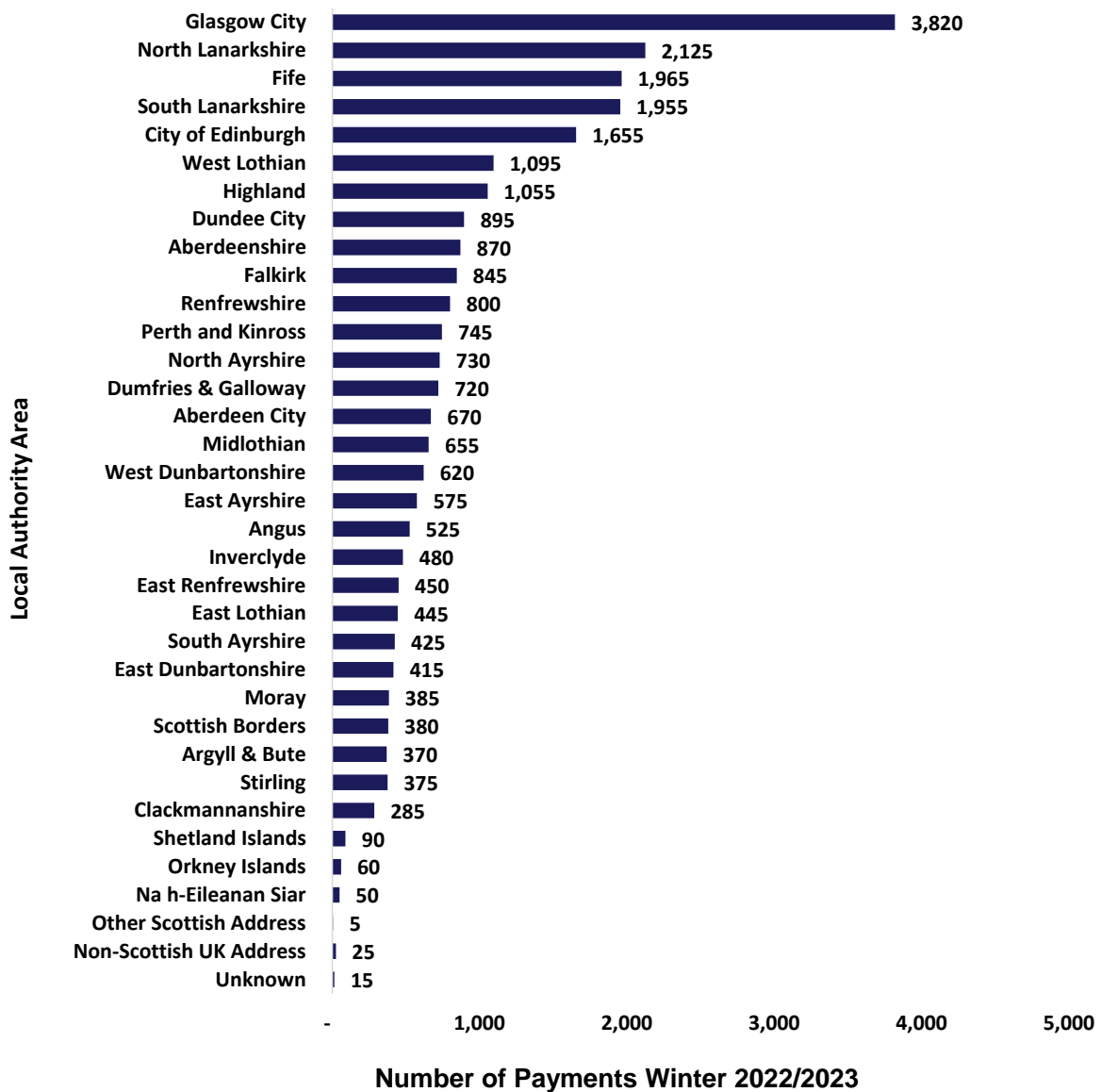
Chart 2: Number of payments by age of recipient



Payments by local authority area

- Payments were issued for children living in all 32 local authority areas in Scotland. The local authorities with the greatest proportions of payments were Glasgow City with 14% of payments, North Lanarkshire with 8% and Fife and South Lanarkshire with 7% [Table 4b, Chart 3].
- A small number of payments were for children or young people with a non-Scottish UK address or where an address could not be matched to a local authority. These payments account for less than one per cent of the total number of payments issued. More information about this can be found in the [data quality section](#).

Chart 3: Number of payments by local authority area



Payments by qualifying benefit

- For winter 2022/2023, 18,835 payments were issued for children or young people eligible through Child Disability Payment and 25 payments were issued for children or young people eligible through Adult Disability Payment. This accounts for 71% of payments. The remaining 7,695 payments were for children or young people eligible through either Disability Living Allowance for Children or Personal Independence Payment **[Table 5]**.

Payments by month

- For winter 2022/2023, the majority of payments were made by the end of October 2022, with around 84% of payments issued in October 2022. Around 9% of payments were issued in November 2022 **[Table 6b]**.

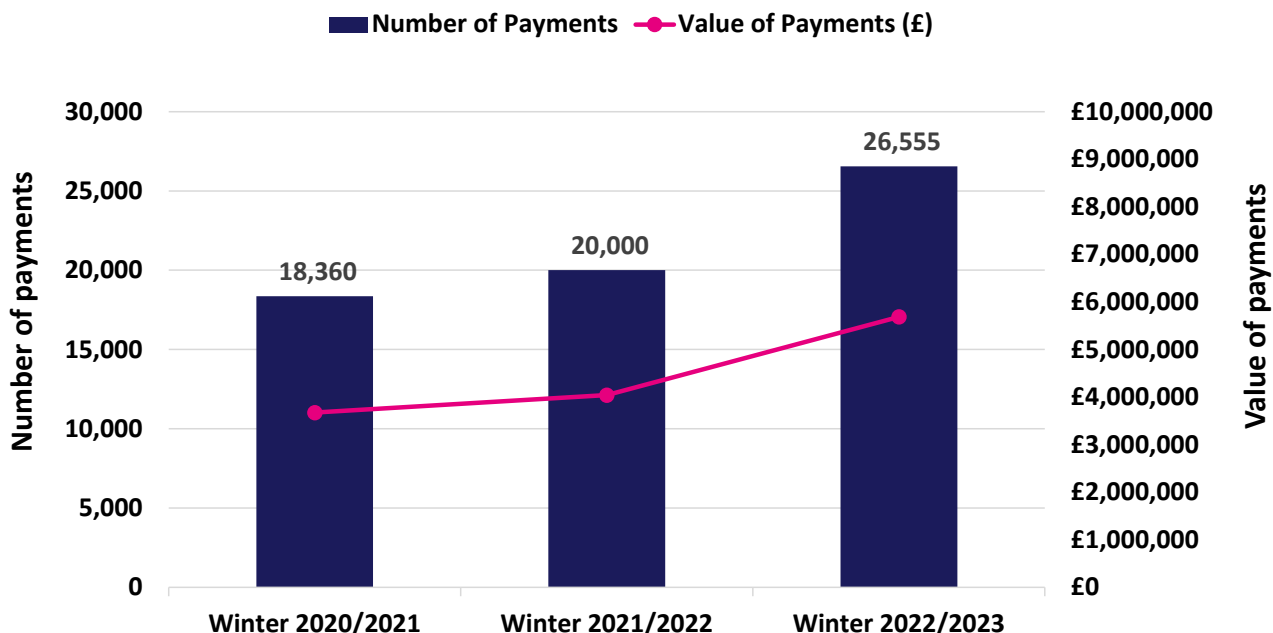
Child Winter Heating Assistance Payments since November 2020

Figures for previous winters have been updated to include payments issued after the last publication of Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics, and backdated payments.

Number of payments

- Since November 2020, 64,915 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments have been issued in total. The number of payments issued increased from 18,360 for winter 2020/2021 through 20,000 for winter 2021/2022 to 26,555 for winter 2022/2023 [Table 6a]. As explained in the payments section and in the [background note](#), these might yet increase due to payments processed after the publication cut-off date.
- The number of children or young people who received payment for winter 2022/2023 was 6,555 higher than for winter 2021/2022 [Table 6a, Chart 4]. The increase is spread fairly evenly across the age groups with the exception of the group of 17-year olds which saw a drop in the number of payments compared to the previous winter [Table 1a].

Chart 4: Number of payments by winter



Value of payments

- In total, £13.4 million has been issued in payments since November 2020. **[Table 6a]**. An excerpt from Table 6(a) giving total expenditure for each winter is shown below.

Qualifying period	Payment value	Total Expenditure
Winter 2020/21	£200.00	£3.7 million
Winter 2021/22	£202.00	£4.0 million
Winter 2022/23	£214.10	£5.7 million

Payments by age of child or young person

- The proportions of children or young people in each age band have remained similar, with the exception for age 17 which has decreased from 12% in winter 2021/2022 to 6% in winter 2022/2023 **[Table 1b]**.

Multiple children

- The proportion of recipients receiving payment for more than one child or young person is similar for all the winters with 5% for winter 2020/2021 through 6% for winter 2021/2022 to 7% for winter 2022/23 **[Table 2b]**.

Payments by recipient age

- The proportion of recipients in each age group is similar for winter 2021/2022 and winter 2022/2023, changing by up to 3% for each age group **[Table 3b]**.

Payments by local authority area

- The proportion of children or young people who received payment in each local authority area is similar for winter 2021/2022 and winter 2022/2023, changing by up to 1% for each local authority area **[Table 4b]**.

Re-determinations

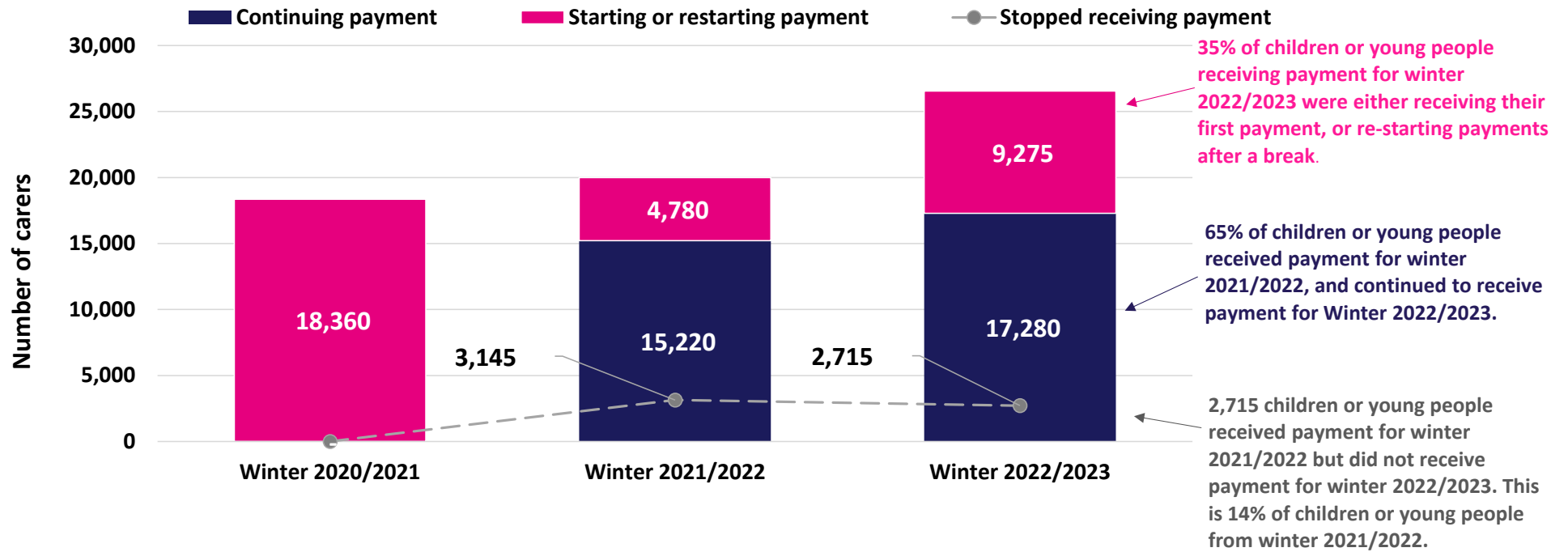
- From November 2020 to 31 March 2023, 50 re-determinations were recorded for Child Winter Heating Assistance **[Table 7a]**. Around 71% of these were not upheld, and 29% were withdrawn **[Table 7b]**.

- Some of these re-determinations were likely made in error, as some clients have mistakenly 'applied' for Child Winter Heating Assistance without knowing the payment was automatic. The outcomes of not upheld were mainly due to payment already having been made automatically. The withdrawn re-determination figures indicate where explanations were provided to clients and they went on to withdraw their re-determination as these were made in error. More information about this can be found in the [data quality section](#).

Children or young people since November 2020

- Of the 26,555 children or young people who received payment for winter 2022/2023, 65% had a payment made for winter 2021/2022 [**Table 9, Chart 5**].
- An additional 34% had a payment made for the first time for winter 2022/2023, and 1% had a payment made after a break for winter 2021/2022 [**Table 9**].
- Of the 20,000 children or young people who received payment for winter 2021/2022, 14% were no longer eligible for winter 2022/2023 [**Table 9, Chart 5**].
- Of the 20,000 children or young people who received payment for winter 2021/2022, 76% had a payment made for the previous winter, while for 24% this was the first payment [**Table 9, Chart 5**].
- Of the 18,360 children or young people who received payment for winter 2020/2021, 17% were no longer eligible for the following winter [**Table 9, Chart 5**].
- These figures may change in future updates to the statistics due to the inclusion of any children and young people who received payments after the cut-off date of the publication.

Chart 5: Children or young people by winter



Background to Child Winter Heating Assistance

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced in November 2020 by the Scottish Government. There is no payment equivalent to it elsewhere in the UK. It is paid once a year by Social Security Scotland. The payment for winter 2020/2021 which was the first winter covered was £200. Since then, the payment has been updated every year and was £214.10 for winter 2022/2023.

Children and young people in Scotland can get the assistance if they are under 19 years old and get one of the following 'qualifying benefits':

- The highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment
- The highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance for children
- The enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment
- The enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment.

They must be getting this on at least one day in the week starting with the third Monday of September (called the 'qualifying week'). In 2022, this was Monday 19 September to Sunday 25 September.

If a child or young person gets a qualifying benefit but did not live in Scotland between 19 September and 25 September 2022, they might still qualify if they:

- are habitually resident in [Switzerland or certain European Economic Area \(EEA\) countries](#) specified in the Schedule of the Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Regulations (2020); and
- can show they have a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland.

If a child or young person is entitled to one of the qualifying benefits but this was not being paid in the qualifying week, they might still be entitled to Child Winter Heating Assistance. It depends on why payments were not being issued that week. If this was because the child or young person was staying in residential care or was in hospital, they will still get Child Winter Heating Assistance.

Child Winter Heating Assistance payment is not means-tested. If there is more than one child or young person who qualifies in the household, they each get a payment for the full amount.

The majority of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments are issued automatically without requiring an application. In limited circumstances clients may have to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance. This could apply for example, when a child or young person no longer lives in Scotland but has a link to Scotland such as having been to school or nursery or received an education in Scotland.

Clients may also need to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance if they receive a backdated Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment award for the qualifying week. In these circumstances clients may apply by phone or by completing a paper form. Social Security Scotland is working to identify clients who have become eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance through Child Disability Payment after the Child Winter Heating Assistance payments were issued, and automatically send them their backdated payments. However, if a client receives a backdated Child Disability Payment award for the qualifying week, they may also apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance themselves at this time. In these circumstances clients may apply by phone or by completing a paper form.

People receiving Child Winter Heating Assistance payments can include:

- young people aged 16 to 18 who manage their own money
- someone with parental rights and responsibilities (e.g. parents, guardians)
- an appointee – either a personal acting body (someone who acts on behalf of an individual e.g. an informal kinship carer) or a corporate acting body (an organisation that acts on behalf of the child or young person e.g. a solicitor, local authority or third sector organisation)

In this publication, the word ‘recipient’ is used to describe someone who a Child Winter Heating Assistance payment was issued to, to be used for the benefit of the child or young person.

Disability Living Allowance for children

From 1 April 2020, executive competence for Disability Living Allowance for children was transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland. There is a transitional period during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Disability Living Allowance on Social Security Scotland’s behalf.

Disability Living Allowance for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16 and has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. They must have had these needs for at least 3 months and expect them to last for at least 6 months. If they have a terminal illness that means they are unlikely to live for more than six months, they do not need to have had these needs for 3 months. Children may qualify for one or both components – the care component and the mobility component. The highest rate of the care component applies where the child needs help or supervision throughout both day and night, or if they are terminally ill.

Child Disability Payment, which replaced Disability Living Allowance for children, launched nationally in Scotland on Monday 22 November 2021. For Child Disability Payment, eligibility was extended from 16 years to 18 years for those already in receipt of this assistance before turning 16.

Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment was the first of the application-based disability benefits to be introduced by the Scottish Government. It provides money to help with the extra care and mobility costs that a child living with a disability might have. Child Disability Payment consists of two components, the care component and the mobility component.

The pilot launched on the 26 July 2021 for new applicants living in the local authorities of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. On 22 November 2021, Child Disability Payment launched nationwide to all new applicants living in Scotland. From 11 October 2021, children who are aged over 15 and a half to 17 who get Disability Living Allowance for children from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment in phases. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children by June 2023.

Personal Independence Payment

Personal Independence Payment is provided to support working age clients with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill health or terminal ill health.

From 1 April 2020, Personal Independence Payment became one of the benefits to have executive competency transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government that is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Personal Independence Payment on Social Security Scotland's behalf.

In November 2021, eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance was extended to young people aged 16 to 18 who are in receipt of the enhanced daily living component of Personal Independence Payment during the qualifying week. Young people who met these criteria during the qualifying week in 2020 were entitled to a backdated payment for winter 2020/2021 at its original rate of £200.

The Scottish Government is replacing Personal Independence Payment with Adult Disability Payment.

Adult Disability Payment

Adult Disability Payment is the second of the application-based disability benefits to be introduced by the Scottish Government. It provides money to help with the extra daily living and mobility costs that a person living with a disability or long term health condition might have. Adult Disability Payment consists of two components, the daily living component and the mobility component.

The pilot launched on the 21 March 2022 for new applicants living in the local authorities of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. The pilot expanded to include Angus, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire on 20 June 2022 and further expanded to include Fife, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire on 25 July 2022 before launching nationally to all remaining local authorities on 29 August 2022.

From 13 June 2022, people who get Personal Independence Payment and from 29 August 2022 some people who get Working Age Disability Living Allowance from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Adult Disability Payment in phases. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Personal Independence Payment and Working Age Disability Living Allowance by the end of 2025.

About the data

How data is collected

Social Security Scotland identifies children or young people in payment of the highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment or enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment during the qualifying week to issue their Child Winter Heating Assistance payments. The Department for Work and Pensions runs a scan of the information they hold on those in payment of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment during the qualifying week. The Department for Work and Pensions then securely transfers the necessary data to Social Security Scotland to allow them to issue Child Winter Heating Assistance payments. Future scans will not include details of children or young people whose award was backdated to previous years, only children or young people eligible at the point of the scan.

A small number of clients may also apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance separately through a paper form or by telephone. This includes clients that were not included in the Department for Work and Pensions scan and are making backdated applications for Child Winter Heating Assistance.

Child Winter Heating Assistance cases and payments are managed through the Social Security Scotland case management system. A cut of data was extracted from the case management system on 3 April 2023. This includes information about each case that has been created since the introduction of Child Winter Heating

Assistance in November 2020 to 31 March 2023. It is not currently possible to distinguish automatic payments based on details sent from the Department for Work and Pensions from payments issued as the result of separate applications received by Social Security Scotland.

Data quality

Payments

This publication presents data for Child Winter Heating Assistance cases where a payment value had been recorded on the case management system by 31 March 2023. This accounts for over 99% of the cases that were on the case management system at this date. A recorded payment value indicates that a child or young person had been found to be eligible, and that an instruction had been sent to Social Security Scotland finance to make a payment. The majority of recipients in winter 2022/2023 were paid in October 2022, and therefore most recipients will have received payments by 31 March 2023. However, there can be a delay before payments are issued, and it can take up to four working days for payments to reach recipients' accounts once issued, so it is possible that a small number of payments had not been received by this date.

The remaining less than 1% of cases that are not included in this publication may not have had payment values for a variety of reasons. For example, (i) the child or young person was found to be ineligible, (ii) Social Security Scotland needs further information, or (iii) the case was created in error and a payment will never be issued for that case.

Missing and duplicate information

The data comes from 100% data cut of the Child Winter Heating Assistance cases on the Social Security Scotland case management system. National Insurance Number and child reference number are 'hashed', or turned into a string of letters and numbers that analysts cannot use to identify people but can be used as a unique anonymous reference for clients. Information about child reference number and child date of birth was complete for all cases. Information about child postcode was missing for less than 1% of cases. Information about adult National Insurance Number and postcode is missing for around 6% of cases. Information about adult date of birth is missing for around 8% of cases. Less than 1% of cases were duplicates from the case management system that were counted in the data cut twice due to a technical error. Duplicate cases were subsequently excluded from the analysis.

Age

Age of children or young people and recipients is based on age at the start of the qualifying week. In a small number of cases age band is 'unknown'. This is due to an error in date of birth (e.g. recipient date of birth recorded in place of child date of birth).

Local Authority

Payments are assigned to local authority by the residential postcode of the child or young person, using a Scottish Government lookup file. A small number of payments could not be matched to local authority due to their supplied postcodes not matching the lookup file. Some of these postcodes were identified as being in Scotland, and may relate to new builds with newly created postcodes. Some of these postcodes matched to other areas within the UK, outside of Scotland. This may be, for example, where a child has moved since the qualifying week, or where a child has a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland. A small number of children's postcodes were missing.

Multiple children

Recipients that received payments for more than one child or young person have been identified based on hashed National Insurance Number. Recipients with missing National Insurance Number have been excluded from this analysis.

Rounding

Number of payments have been rounded to the nearest five payments for disclosure control. Value of payments have been rounded to the nearest £1,000 for disclosure control. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1%. Data has been suppressed where it would disclose fewer than five payments.

Backdating

Backdated payments have been issued to clients who retrospectively became eligible during the qualifying week in 2020 for winter 2020/2021. In November 2021, eligibility was extended to 16-18 year olds who receive the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment. If a young person was entitled in the qualifying week in 2020, they are entitled to a backdated payment for winter 2020/2021. The majority of these backdated payments were issued in March 2022 and captured in the April 2022 publication. In subsequent publications and tables, these backdated payments have been included with winter 2020/2021 payments, revising the data from the April 2021 publication.

Number of payments for each winter can also increase in subsequent publications due to some payments being processed after the publication cut-off date. The table below illustrates how figures for total number of children or young people at each qualifying week have changed between statistics publications, and percentage increase in figures between publications.

	Published number of payments		
	September 2020 qualifying week	September 2021 qualifying week	September 2022 qualifying week
April 2021 publication	14,015		
April 2022 publication	18,315 (+30.7%)*	19,865	
April 2023 publication	18,360 (+0.2%)	20,000 (+0.7%)	26,555
Total % change to date	31.0%	0.7%	n/a
Total change to date	4,345	135	n/a

*due to change in eligibility criteria, after the release of the first publication over 4,000 children or young people received a backpayment for Winter 2020/2021

Re-determinations

Children and young people eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance were sent letters by Social Security Scotland to notify them of the payment. Some clients mistook this letter for a reminder to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an automatic payment and does not require an application. The outcomes of not upheld were mainly due to payment already having been made automatically. The withdrawn re-determination figures indicate where explanations were provided to clients and they went on to withdraw their re-determination as these were made in error.

Sex

Information on sex of the child or young person was published in the April 2021 publication. This information was taken from the data transferred by the Department for Work and Pensions rather than Social Security Scotland's case management system. However, the equivalent data for the April 2022 publication and for the present publication was not available.

Comparisons between Child Winter Heating Assistance Statistics and Statistics for the Qualifying Benefits

The eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance is dependent on a child or young person being under 19 years old, and in receipt of either the highest rate of care component of Child Disability Payment, the highest rate of care component of Disability Living Allowance, the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment.

The data is therefore similar to the Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment Statistics published by Social Security Scotland, and the Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment statistics for children in Scotland published on StatXplore by the Department for Work and Pensions at: <https://statxplorer.dwp.gov.uk>. However, there are a number of differences between these sets of data:

- The qualifying benefits are all rolling payments with quarterly publication schedules. Child Winter Heating Assistance is not a rolling payment – it is paid once a year to children that were eligible in the third full week of September, and data will be published after payments are issued once a year.
- There are two Disability Living Allowance datasets, covering ‘in payment’ only, and all those ‘with entitlement’. Child Winter Heating Assistance eligibility is based on children being in payment of a qualifying benefit, with the exception of children whose payments have stopped for example because they are in a care home or hospital, who remain eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance.
- Child Winter Heating Assistance, Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment statistics could include children or young people who are eligible because they have a link to Scotland but are not residing in Scotland. Disability Living Allowance for children and Personal Independence Payment statistics for Scotland will only include children and young people ordinarily resident in Scotland, based on address history.
- Disability Living Allowance for children is being replaced by Child Disability Payment in Scotland. For Child Disability Payment, eligibility has been extended from 16 years to 18 years for those already in receipt of assistance before turning 16. Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children in Scotland who turn 16 on or after 1 September 2020 are not being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment at age 16, and instead have remained in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children. These children are eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics therefore include young people aged 16, 17 and 18. While Disability Living Allowance statistics on [StatXplore](https://statxplorer.dwp.gov.uk) will include these 16, 17 and 18 year olds, they are classed as ‘Working age’ rather than ‘Child’.
- In November 2021, eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance was extended to young people under 19 who receive the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment. Child Winter Heating Statistics

therefore now also include these 16, 17 and 18 year olds and refers to them as 'young people'. In Personal Independence Payment Statistics on [StatXplore](#) they are referred to as 'working age people'.

Related Social Security Scotland publications

Statistics published by Social Security Scotland can be found at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about/statistics/social-security-scotland-statistics-publications>

The latest Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment statistics publications can be found at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about/statistics/social-security-scotland-statistics-publications>

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are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about/statistics/social-security-scotland-statistics-publications>

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