

Freedom of Information request 4953/2014

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Information request

I would like to request data on the winter fuel allowance. Please give latest details of how many awards are made, at what total cost. Please also give a breakdown of the number of awards and cost by UK region, and country of residence where the claimant lives outside the UK. And where possible please give details of the status of plans for a "temperature test" to prevent winter fuel allowance payments being made to people living outside the UK in warmer countries.

DWP response

A collection of Winter Fuel Payment statistics, which covers caseload and household data as well as payments in EEA countries and Switzerland is available in the public domain on the GOV.UK website;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/winter-fuel-payments-caseload-and-household-figures>

Winter Fuel Payments are non-contributory and were designed to give older people in the UK reassurance that they can keep warm during cold weather. The Government intends to bring in an eligibility criterion based on country of residence with payments going only to eligible people living in EEA countries with colder climates. Legislation will need to be passed before any change can be made.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, from 2015/16 Winter Fuel Payments will no longer be payable to individuals in countries where the average winter temperature is warmer than the warmest region of the UK (SW England).