

# ADM Chapter L5: Winter Fuel Payments

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## Winter Fuel Payments

L5000 This guidance applies from 15.09.25 in respect of Winter Fuel Payment claims from Winter 2025 onwards.

L5001 A WFP is a one-off annual payment based on an individual's circumstances during a specified Qualifying Week. It is payable to those who in or before the QW have reached pensionable age. Winter Fuel Payments will be automatically issued using information from Departmental records<sup>1</sup>. If a payment is not paid automatically, the person can make a claim for it before 31 March in the following year.

Note: The provisions for payments in the EEA and Switzerland expired on 1 April 2025. From Winter 2025/26, WFP will no longer be payable in the EEA and Switzerland.

<sup>1</sup> [SFWFP Regs, reg 5](#)

L5002 The QW in any year is the week beginning on the third Monday in September of that year<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(3\)](#)

L5003- L5004

## Entitlement to a Winter Fuel Payment

L5005 A WFP is payable to a person who, in or before the QW, has reached pensionable age<sup>1</sup>

and in respect of any day falling within the QW is ordinarily resident in England or Wales<sup>2</sup> (see DMG 070769).

**Note 1:** See DMG Chapter 74 for guidance on pensionable age.

L5006 However, not every person who fulfils the above conditions will qualify for a WFP<sup>1</sup> (see DMG 39911).

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 4](#)

L5007 - 39910

## **Persons not entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment**

L5011 Persons will not qualify for a WFP if throughout the QW they are

- 1.** a partner of and living with a person who has reached pensionable age in or before the QW and who has been, or falls to be, paid a relevant benefit in respect of the QW<sup>1</sup> or
- 2.** receiving free in-patient treatment and have done so for 52 weeks or more ending immediately before the QW<sup>2</sup> or
- 3.** detained in custody under a sentence imposed by a court<sup>3</sup> or
- 4.** in residential care and the period of at least 12 weeks ending immediately before the qualifying week (disregarding any period of temporary absence) and a relevant benefit has been, or falls to be, paid in respect of any day falling within the QW<sup>4</sup> or
- 5.** having been ordinarily resident in England or Wales on a day within the QW, becomes ordinarily resident in Scotland or Northern Ireland by the last day of that week<sup>5</sup> or
- 6.** has not made a claim for a WFP on or before 31 March following the qualifying week in respect of the winter following that week where it is required to make one and payment is not made automatically<sup>6</sup>

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(3\) & 4\(2\)\(a\)](#); 2 [reg 4\(2\)\(b\) & reg 1\(3\)](#); 3 [reg 4\(2\)\(c\)](#); 4 [reg 4\(3\)](#); 5 [reg 4 \(4\)](#); 6 [reg 4 \(5\)](#);

L5012 Partner<sup>1</sup> in DMG 39911 means

- 1.** a member of a couple or
- 2.** a member of a polygamous marriage

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(3\)](#)

L5013 Living with a person<sup>1</sup> in DMG 39911 means

- 1.** two or more people who share accommodation as their mutual home and they are not in residential care

1 SFWFP Regs, reg 1(4)(b)

L5014 Relevant benefit<sup>1</sup> in DMG 39911 and DMG 39923 means

1. IS
2. JSA(IR)
3. SPC
4. ESA (IR)
5. UC

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(3\)](#);

L5015 Residential care<sup>1</sup> in DMG 39911 means a person throughout the QW and the period of at least 12 weeks ending immediately before the qualifying week has been residing in

1. a care home or
2. an independent hospital or
3. accommodation provided under specified legislation<sup>2</sup>

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(4\)\(a\)](#); 2 [Polish Resettlement Act 1947, s 3\(1\)](#)

L5016 - L5022

## **Amount of Winter Fuel Payment**

L5023 Where a person is entitled to a WFP, the amount payable depends on their age, living arrangements, and whether a relevant benefit is payable

1. £300<sup>1</sup> is payable if the person has reached the age of 80 on or before the QW; or
2. £300<sup>2</sup> is payable if the person has not reached the age of 80 on or before the QW and a relevant benefit has been or falls to be paid to them in or before the QW and in that week
  1. they are living with and the partner of another person who has reached the age of 80 in or before that week.
3. £200<sup>3</sup> is payable if the person has not reached the age of 80 in or before the QW or

**4.** £200<sup>4</sup> is payable if the person has reached the age of 80 in or before the QW; and a relevant

benefit has not been, and does not fall to be, paid to them in or before the QW; and in that week

**1.** they are living with a person entitled to a WFP who has not reached the age of 80.

**5.** £150<sup>5</sup> is payable if the person has reached the age of 80 in or before the QW; and a relevant benefit has not been, and does not fall to be, paid to them in or before the QW; and in that week

**1.** they are living with another person entitled to a WFP who has reached the age of 80 or

**2.** in residential care.

**6.** £100<sup>6</sup> is payable if the person has not reached the age of 80 on or before the QW; and a relevant benefit

has not been, and does not fall to be, paid to them in or before the QW; and in that week

**1.** they are living with a person entitled to a WFP or

**2.** in residential care.

**Note 1:** Paragraph **1** is subject to paragraph **4** and **5**.

**Note 2:** Paragraph **2** is subject to paragraph **3** and **6**.

**Note 3:** Paragraph **3** is subject to paragraph **6**.

**Note 4:** See **Appendix 1** for illustrative table of amounts.

<sup>1</sup> [SFWFP Regs, reg 3\(4\)\(link is external\)](#); <sup>2</sup> [reg 3\(3\)](#); <sup>3</sup> [reg 3\(1\)](#); <sup>4</sup> [reg 3\(5\)](#) <sup>5</sup> [reg 3\(6\)](#) <sup>6</sup> [reg 3\(2\)](#)

### Example 1

Ben is 78 and lives with his wife, Carol, who is also eligible for a WFP. Neither Ben nor Carol receives a relevant benefit during the qualifying week. Ben is entitled to £100 WFP. Carol would also be entitled to £100, assuming she is also aged under 80.

### Example 2

Irene is 85 and lives in a care home. She does not receive any relevant benefits during the qualifying week. Irene is entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment of £150.

### Example 3

Dorothy is 82 and lives in a shared household with her sister, Margaret, who is 85 and eligible for a WFP.

Neither receives a relevant benefit. Dorothy is entitled to £150 WFP. Margaret would also be entitled to £150.

L5024-L5040

## Appendix 1

Example	Amount Payable
<b>No pensioner in the household is in receipt of Pension Credit or another relevant means-tested benefit</b>	
One pensioner, below 80, living alone	£200
One pensioner, 80 or over, living alone	£300
Two pensioners, both below 80, in a household	£100
Two pensioners, both 80 or over, in a household	£150
Two pensioners, one below 80, one 80 or over, in a household	£100 (below 80) £200 (80 or over)
Three pensioners, all below 80, in a household	£100
Three pensioners, all 80 or over, in a household	£150
Three pensioners, two below 80, one 80 or over, in a household	£100 (below 80) £200 (80 or over)
Three pensioners, one below 80, two 80 or over, in a household	£100 (below 80) £150 (80 or over)
<b>One or more pensioners in the household are in receipt of Pension Credit or another relevant means-</b>	

tested benefit	
Two pensioners, both below 80, claiming PC as a couple, in a household	£200 (one payment paid to lead claimant)
Two pensioners, both 80 or over, claiming PC as a couple, in a household	£300 (one payment paid to lead claimant)
Two pensioners, one below 80, one 80 or over, claiming PC as a couple, in a household	£300 (one payment paid to lead claimant)
Three pensioners, below 80, in a household, one claiming PC, the others not claiming PC or another relevant means-tested benefit	£200 to pensioner in receipt of PC £100 per remaining individual
Four pensioners, two above 80 claiming PC as a couple, in a household with two pensioners below 80 not receiving PC or other relevant means-tested benefit	£300 to pensioner in receipt of PC (one payment paid to lead claimant) £100 (each below 80)

The content of the examples in this document (including use of imagery) is for illustrative purposes only

## **Subpages**

- [Winter Fuel Payments pre-Winter 2025](#)

# Winter Fuel Payments pre-Winter 2025

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[Persons not entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment](#) L5061 - L5066

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## Winter Fuel Payments

**Important Note: From 16.09.2025 this guidance no longer applies and should only be referred to if considering any WFP claims/ appeals between 16.09.24 and 16.09.25.**

L50036 This guidance applies from 16.09.24 in respect of WFP claims from Winter 2024 onwards.

L5037 A WFP is a one-off annual payment based on an individual's circumstances during a specified QW. It is payable to those who in or before the QW have reached pensionable age. Winter Fuel payments will be automatically issued using information from Departmental records<sup>1</sup>. If a payment is not paid automatically, the person can make a claim for it before 31 March in the following year. People will also need to claim it if they are habitually resident in Switzerland or an EEA country listed in **Appendix 1** and meet the entitlement conditions.

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 5\(link is external\)](#)

L5038 The QW in any year is the week beginning on the third Monday in the September of that year<sup>1</sup>.

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(4\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5039 -L5044

## Entitlement to a Winter Fuel Payment

L5045 A WFP is payable to a person who, in or before the QW, has reached pensionable age<sup>1</sup> and in respect of any day falling within the QW the following applies;

**1.** is ordinarily resident in England and Wales; (see ADM **C1946** et seq) **and**

**1.1** is entitled to a relevant benefit; **or**



**1.2** is entitled to an award of CTC or WTC not less than £26 in respect of the tax year 2024-2025<sup>2</sup> **or**

**2.** is habitually resident (see ADM **C1951** et seq) in an eligible country<sup>3</sup>.

**Note 1:** See DMG Chapter 74 for guidance on pensionable age.

**Note 2:** From 6.4.25 the Tax Credits Service will close. (see [\[Memo 05-24\]](#) for details).

**Note 3:** See **Appendix 1** for the list of eligible countries in ADM **L5045 2**.

**Note 4:** ADM **L5045 2**. ceases to have effect on 1.4.25, therefore from 1.4.25 a person will have to satisfy ADM **L5045 1**. to be entitled to a WFP<sup>4</sup>.

1 [SFWFP Regs,\(link is external\) reg 2\(1\)\(link is external\) & 2\(4\)\(link is external\)](#); 2 [reg 2\(2\)\(link is external\)](#);  
3 [reg 2\(3\)\(link is external\)](#); 4 [reg 7\(2\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5046 Relevant benefit<sup>1</sup> in ADM **L50045 1**. means

**1.** IS

**2.** JSA(IR)

**3.** SPC

**4.** ESA(IR)

**5.** UC

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 2\(4\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5047 A person who falls within **L5045 2**. above does not qualify for a WFP unless

**1.** they are a person covered by

**1.1** Title III of Part 2 of the withdrawal agreement as set out at Article 30 of that agreement; **or**

**1.2** Title III of Part 2 of the EEA EFTA separation agreement as set out at Article 29 of that agreement; **or**

**1.3** Part Three of the Swiss citizens' rights agreement as set out at Article 25 of that agreement; **or**

**1.4** the Convention on Social Security between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland signed at Dublin on 1st February 1919 as set out in Article 2 of that Convention<sup>1</sup>; **and**

**2.** they are able to demonstrate

**2.1** entitlement to a benefit payable in the country in which they are habitually resident that is equivalent to a relevant benefit<sup>2</sup>; **and**

**2.2** a genuine and sufficient link to the United Kingdom<sup>3</sup>.

**Note:** For Guidance on the effect of EU law on the residence requirement see ADM **C1951** et seq.

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 2\(3\)\(b\)\(link is external\)](#) 2 [reg 2\(3\)\(c\)\(i\)\(link is external\)](#) 3 [reg 2\(3\)\(c\)\(ii\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5048 However, not every person who fulfils the above conditions will qualify for a WFP<sup>1</sup> (see ADM **L5021**).

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 4 \(link is external\)](#)

L5049-L5060

## **Persons not entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment**

L5061 Persons will not qualify for a WFP if

**1.** throughout the QW they are

**1.1** a member of a couple where the other member of that couple has been paid a WFP in respect of the QW<sup>1</sup> **or**

**1.2** a member of a polygamous marriage where another member of that marriage has been paid a WFP in respect of the QW<sup>2</sup> **or**

**1.3** receiving free in-patient treatment and have done so for at least 52 weeks immediately preceding the QW<sup>3</sup> **or**

**1.4** detained in custody under a sentence imposed by a court<sup>4</sup> **or**

**1.5** resident in a care home and have been for the 12 weeks leading up to the QW<sup>5</sup> **or**

**2.** having been ordinarily resident in England and Wales on a day within the QW, becomes ordinarily resident in Scotland or Northern Ireland by the last day of that week<sup>6</sup> **or**

**3.** has not made a claim for a WFP on or before 31<sup>st</sup> March following the qualifying week in respect of the winter following that week<sup>7</sup>

**4.** they are subject to Immigration control and not eligible for help from DWP<sup>8</sup>

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(4\)\(link is external\)](#) & [4\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)\(link is external\)](#) & 2 [reg 1\(4\)\(link is external\)](#) & [4\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)\(link is external\)](#); 3 [reg 4\(1\)\(a\)\(iii\)\(link is external\)](#) & [4\(3\)\(link is external\)](#);  
4 [reg 4\(1\)\(a\)\(iv\)\(link is external\)](#); 5 [reg 4\(1\)\(a\)\(v\)\(link is external\)](#) & [4\(3\)\(link is external\)](#); 6 [reg 4\(1\)\(b\)\(link is external\)](#); 7 [reg 4\(1\)\(c\)\(link is external\)](#); 8 [I & A Act 99, s 115\(link is external\)](#)

### Example 1

Bill and Ethel are a married couple both aged over 80. Bill receives SPC for himself and his wife so he is entitled to a WFP of £300 and Ethel will not be entitled to a WFP.

### Example 2

Pepé, Freddie and Roxie are members of a polygamous household. Freddie who is aged 70 is automatically paid a WFP of £200. Although Pepé and Roxie have both reached the qualifying age for SPC they will not be entitled to a WFP as Freddie has already been paid a WFP.

### Example 3

Donald reaches pensionable age on 16.09.24 and is living in the Republic of Ireland and in receipt of a benefit equivalent to SPC so is in the category referred to in ADM **L5002** who have to make a claim for WFP. On the 1.4.25 he makes a claim for a WFP. As Donald has missed the 31.3.25 deadline he will not be entitled to a WFP for the winter following that QW.

L5062 Couple in ADM **L5061** means<sup>1</sup>

1. two people who are married to, or civil partners of, each other and are members of the same household **or**
2. two people who are not married to, or civil partners of, each other but are living together as if they were a married couple or civil partners.

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(4\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5063 Polygamous marriage in ADM **L5061** means<sup>1</sup>

1. a marriage during which a party is married to more than one person which took place under the laws of a country which permits polygamy
2. where all members of the marriage and the additional spouse are members of the same household.

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 1\(4\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5064 Residential care in ADM **L5061** means<sup>1</sup> a person residing in

1. a care home **or**

**2.** an independent hospital **or**

**3.** accommodation provided under specified legislation<sup>2</sup>

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 4\(3\)\(link is external\)](#); 2 [Polish Resettlement Act 1947, s 3\(1\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5065 Where a person becomes entitled to a relevant benefit in respect of any day falling within the QW by virtue of a decision made after the QW, the Secretary of State may make a WFP<sup>1</sup>.

**Note:** This applies to decisions made after the QW by the Secretary of State, HMRC, FtT or UT.

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 5\(2\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5066 - L5074

## Amount of Winter Fuel Payment

L5075 Where a person is entitled to a WFP their WFP will be

**1.** £300<sup>1</sup> if

**1.1** the person has reached the age of 80 in or before the QW **or**

**1.2** the person has not reached the age of 80 in or before the QW but they are in a couple or polygamous marriage with a person who has reached that age **or**

**2.** £200<sup>2</sup> in any other case

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 3\(a\(link is external\)\) & \(b\)\(link is external\)](#); 2 [reg 3\(c\)\(link is external\)](#)

L5076 - L5999

## Appendix 1

Eligible Countries in ADM **L5045**

Republic of Austria
Kingdom of Belgium

Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Croatia
Czech Republic
Kingdom of Denmark
Republic of Estonia
Republic of Finland
Federal Republic of Germany
Hungary
Iceland
Republic of Ireland
Italian Republic
Republic of Latvia
The Principality of Liechtenstein
Republic of Lithuania
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Kingdom of Norway
Republic of Poland
Romania
Slovak Republic
Republic of Slovenia

Kingdom of Sweden
Swiss Confederation

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