

# **DMG Chapter 40: Winter Fuel Payments pre-Winter 2025**

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# Winter Fuel Payments pre-winter 2024 40000 - 40030

**Important Note: This guidance no longer applies and should only be referred to if considering any WFP claims/ appeals prior to 16.9.24.**

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40000 This Chapter only applies to WFP claims prior to 16.9.24

40001 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 the qualifying age for SPC. The majority of payments can be made automatically based on information held on Departmental records<sup>1</sup>. However some people will need to claim it if they have not had it before and any of the following apply:

- they do not get benefits or a SP
- they only get UC, HB, CTB or CB
- they get benefits or a SP but live in Switzerland or an eligible [EEA country](#)
- they live in Scotland and receive an ADP from the Scottish Government

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 4

40002 The QW in any year is the week beginning on the third Monday in September of that year.<sup>1</sup>

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 1(2)

40003 The qualifying age for SPC<sup>1</sup> is for a

**1. woman - pensionable age or**

**2.** man - the age which is pensionable age for a woman born on the same date as the man.

**Note:** Following state pension equalization there is now no distinction between men and women with regards to the qualifying age. See **Appendix 2** for phasing table for WFPs.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 1(2)

## Entitlement

40004 A WFP is payable to a person who, in or before the QW, has reached the qualifying age for SPC and in respect of any day falling within the QW is

- 1.** ordinarily resident in GB (see DMG 070769) **or**
- 2.** habitually resident (see DMG 073707 et seq) in an eligible EEA state or Switzerland<sup>1</sup>.

1 SFWFP

Regs 2000, reg 2(1)

40005 A person who falls within **40004 2.** above does not qualify for a WFP unless they are a person covered by

- 1.** Title III of Part 2 of the withdrawal agreement as set out at Article 30 of that agreement; **or**
- 2.** Title III of Part 2 of the EEA EFTA separation agreement as set out at Article 29 of that agreement; **or**
- 3.** Part Three of the Swiss citizens' rights agreement as set out at Article 25 of that agreement; **or**
- 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 1973 as set out in Article 2 of that Convention;<sup>1</sup>

**Note 1:** They must also be able to demonstrate a genuine and sufficient link to the United Kingdom.<sup>2</sup>

**Note 2:** For Guidance on the effect of EU law on the residence requirement see DMG 073756 et seq.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 2(4)(a), 2 reg 2(4)(b)

40006 However, not every person who fulfils the above conditions will qualify for a WFP (see DMG **40009 - 40016**)<sup>1</sup>

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 3

## Alternative payee

40007 A WFP may be paid to the partner on behalf of the person entitled to the payment even if the partner has not reached the qualifying age<sup>1</sup> (see further guidance in DMG 08306).

1 SS (C&P) Regs, reg 36(2)

## Defective claims

40008 See DMG 02106 - 02108 and DMG 02166 for guidance on defective claims.

## Persons not entitled to a winter fuel payment

40009 From 1.4.12 Persons will not qualify for a WFP if throughout the QW

- 1.** they live with a partner who has reached the qualifying age for SPC and to whom SPC, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) has been or falls to be paid in respect of the QW **or**
- 2.** they are in receipt of SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB), in respect of the QW, and are in residential care throughout the QW and the twelve weeks immediately before it **or**
- 3.** they are currently receiving free hospital in-patient treatment and have done so for more than 52 weeks immediately preceding the QW **or**
- 4.** they are detained in custody under a sentence imposed by a court<sup>1</sup> **or**
- 5.** they are subject to Immigration control and not eligible for help from DWP<sup>2</sup>.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 3(1)(a); 2 I & A Act 99, s 115

## Example

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.

40010 Couple means<sup>1</sup>

- 1.** two people who are married to, or civil partners of, each other and are members of the same household
- 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 2000,  
reg 1(2)

40011 Partner means a member of

1. a couple **or**
2. a polygamous marriage<sup>1</sup>.

1 SFWFP Regs  
2000, reg 1(2)

40012 A person lives with another person if

1. disregarding any period of temporary absence, they share accommodation as their mutual home **and**
2. they are not in residential care<sup>1</sup>.

1 SFWFP Regs  
2000, reg 1(3)

40013 For the purposes of WFP regulations, persons are in residential care if disregarding temporary absences, they reside in

1. a care home **or**
2. an independent hospital (see DMG 39156) **or**
3. Ilford Park Polish Home

and have resided there throughout the QW and the period of twelve weeks immediately before that week<sup>1</sup>.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 1(3)

40014 From the winter of 2000/2001, if persons do not receive a WFP automatically, they may make a claim, but even if they fulfil the conditions of entitlement at DMG 40004, they will be excluded from entitlement if they do not make the claim on or before March 31 in the year following the QW<sup>1</sup>.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 3(1)(b) & 2(1)(a) &  
4(1)

40015 If asylum seekers are granted refugee status after the QW, and become retrospectively entitled to IS, SPC or ESA(IR) then providing they fulfil the conditions of entitlement in DMG **40004 - 40006** and are not excluded by DMG **40009 - 40016**, a WFP must be made and the March 31 deadline does not apply.

40016 No person is entitled to a WFP for the winters of 1997/8, 1998/9 and 1999/2000 unless they

have made a claim for such a payment on or before 31.3.14<sup>1</sup>.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 3(3)

## Amount payable

40017 For those persons entitled, the amount of a WFP, as shown at **Appendix 1** to this Chapter, is payable

**1.** at the lower rate for persons who are not in receipt of SPC, JSA(IB) or ESA(IR) in respect of the QW **and**

**1.1** are in residential care **or**

**1.2** live with another person who is also entitled to a WFP **and**

**2.** at the higher rate for all other persons, except those in residential care and those who live with a partner who is also entitled to the higher rate<sup>1</sup>.

**Note:** **Appendix 1** also includes the specific rates for the winters 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 2

## Additional amounts for people aged 80 or over

40018 From the winter of 2003/2004, people aged 80 or over in or before the QW are entitled to a higher winter fuel payment. The additional amount is sometimes called an 80+ annual payment.

40019 Where a person is entitled to a WFP and has reached the age of 80 in or before the QW, their WFP will be

**1.** £300<sup>1</sup> unless they

**1.1** were in residential care throughout the QW and the twelve weeks immediately before it or

**1.2** live with a person not receiving SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW who is also entitled to a WFP or

**2.** £200<sup>2</sup> if they

**2.1** are not in receipt of SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW and

**2.2** live with another person aged less than 80 in the QW who is also entitled to a WFP or

**3.** £150<sup>3</sup> if they

**3.1** live with another person aged 80 or over in the QW who is also entitled to a WFP or

**3.2** are in residential care throughout the QW and the twelve weeks immediately before and are not receiving SPC,ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 2(2)(a); 2 & 3 reg 2(2)(b)

40020 Where a person has reached the qualifying age for SPC in or before the QW and is living with a partner who is 80 or over they may be entitled to a WFP of £300<sup>1</sup>.

**Note:** This only applies where the member of the couple who is aged 80 or over is eligible, but is not receiving, a WFP.

1 SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 2(3)

40021 - 40022

## Temporary increases for specific winters

40023 For the winters of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 only

**1.** where a person is entitled to a WFP as per the circumstances in **DMG 40020.1** they are entitled to a WFP of £250

**2.** where a person is entitled to a WFP as per the circumstances in **DMG 40020.2** they are entitled to a WFP of £500.

40024 For the winters of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 only, where a person is entitled to a WFP and has reached the age of 80 in or before the QW their WFP will be<sup>1</sup>

**1.** £600 unless they

**1.1** were in residential care throughout the QW and the twelve weeks immediately before it or

**1.2** live with a person not receiving SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW who is also entitled to a WFP or

**2.** £350 if they

**2.1** are not in receipt of SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW and

**2.2** live with another person aged less than 80 in the QW who is also entitled to a WFP or

**3.** £300 if they

**3.1** live with a person who is aged 80 or over in the QW and who is also entitled to a WFP or

**3.2** are in residential care throughout the QW and the twelve weeks immediately before it and are not receiving SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW.

**Note:** If there is more than one person at the same address who is in receipt of SPC, ESA(IR) or JSA(IB) in respect of the QW, they will each receive £600 if entitled to a WFP and aged 80 or over in or before the QW.

1 Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment (Temporary Increase) Regulations 2022 & 2023, reg 2

### **Example**

Mary, Doris and Edna are sisters all aged over 80 who live at the same address. They each receive SPC so are entitled to a WFP of £600 each for the winters of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

40025 For the winters of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 only, where a person has reached the qualifying age for SPC (but is not aged 80 or over) in or before the QW and living with a partner who is aged 80 or over they may be entitled to a WFP of £600.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** This only applies where the member of the couple who is aged 80 or over is eligible for, but is not receiving, a WFP.

1 Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment (Temporary Increase) Regulations 2022 & 2023,  
reg 2 & SFWFP Regs 2000, reg 2(3)

### **Revision or supersession**

40026 A decision on entitlement to and the amount of a WFP, made on the basis of official records, can be revised or superseded in the normal way (see DMG Volume 1).

40027 - 40030





# Winter Fuel Payments pre - winter 2025 40031 - 49999

[Entitlement to a Winter Fuel Payment](#) 40034 - 40037

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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.**

**40031** This guidance applies from 16.09.24 in respect of WFP claims from Winter 2024 onwards.

**40032** 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](#)

**40033** 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\(4\)](#)

## Entitlement to a Winter Fuel Payment

**40034** 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 DMG 070769) **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.** habitually resident (see DMG 073707 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 04-24](#)] for details).

**Note 3:** See Appendix 1 for the list of eligible countries in DMG **40034 2**.

**Note 4:** DMG **40034 2**. ceases to have effect on 1.4.25, therefore from 1.4.25 a person will have to satisfy DMG **40034 1**. to be entitled to a WFP.<sup>4</sup>

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

**40035** Relevant benefit<sup>1</sup> in DMG **40034 1**. means

**1.** IS

**2.** JSA(IR)

**3.** SPC

**4.** ESA (IR)

**5.** UC

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

**40036** A person who falls within DMG **40034 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 2019 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 DMG 073756 et seq.

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

**40037** However, not every person who fulfils the above conditions will qualify for a WFP (see DMG 39910 - 39915)<sup>1</sup>

1 [SFWFP Regs, reg 4](#)

**40038 - 40043**

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

**40043** 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.** subject to Immigration control and not eligible for help from DWP<sup>8</sup>

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

**40044** Couple in DMG **40043** 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\(4\)](#)

**40045** Polygamous marriage in DMG **40043** means 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 where all parties to the marriage are members of the same household.<sup>1</sup>

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

**40046** Residential care in DMG **40043** 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\(3\)](#); 2 [Polish Resettlement Act 1947, s 3\(1\)](#)

**40047** 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\(2\)](#)

### **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 DMG 39001 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 the QW.

**40048 - 40058**

**Amount of Winter Fuel Payment**

**40059** 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\(a\) & \(b\)](#); 2 [reg 3\(c\)](#)

**40060 - 49999**

**Appendix 1**

Eligible Countries in DMG **40034**

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

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





## Appendix 1 - Amount of Winter Fuel Payment

**Table 1**

	<b>Lower Rate</b>	<b>Higher Rate</b>	<b>80 + Amount</b>
Winter 2000/2001 - Winter 2002/2003	£100	£200	-
Winter 2003/2004 onwards (but note exceptions for specified years below)	£100	£200	up to £300 (see DMG 39921 et seq)
Winter 2008/2009			
Winter 2009/2010	£125	£250	up to £400
Winter 2010/2011			

### Exceptions for Winter 2022/2023

	Born between 26 September 1942 and 25 September 1956	Born on or before 25 September 1942
The claimant qualifies and lives alone (or none of the people they live with qualify)	£500	£600
The claimant qualifies and lives with someone under 80 who also qualifies	£250	£350
The claimant qualifies and lives with someone 80 or over who also qualifies	£250	£300
The claimant qualifies, lives in a care home and does not get certain benefits	£250	£300

The payment may be different if the claimant or their partner gets one of the following benefits:

- SPC
- JSA(IB)
- ESA(IR)
- IS:

	Born between 26 September 1942 and 25 September 1956	Born on or before 25 September 1942
The claimant qualifies and lives alone (or none of the people they live with qualify)	£500	£600
The claimant qualifies and lives with a partner who qualifies, and either of them gets one of the benefits	£500 – only one of them will get the payment	£600 – only one of them will get the payment
The claimant qualifies and lives with someone (not their partner) who qualifies, and either or both of them gets one of the benefits	£500 – both get the payment	£600 – both get the payment
The claimant qualifies, lives in a care home and gets one of the benefits	Nil	Nil

### Exceptions for Winter 2023/2024

	Born between 25 September 1943 and 24 September 1957	Born on or before 24 September 1943
The claimant qualifies and lives alone (or none of the people they live with qualify)	£500	£600
The claimant qualifies and lives with someone under 80 who also qualifies	£250	£350
The claimant qualifies and lives with someone 80 or over who also qualifies	£250	£300
The claimant qualifies, lives in a care home and does not get certain benefits	£250	£300

The payment may be different if the claimant or their partner gets one of the following benefits:

- SPC
- JSA(IB)
- ESA(IR)

- IS:

	Born between 25 September 1943 and 24 September 1957	Born on or before 24 September 1943
The claimant qualifies and lives alone (or none of the people they live with qualify)	£500	£600
The claimant qualifies and lives with a partner who qualifies, and either of them gets one of the benefits	£500 – only one of them will get the payment	£600 – only one of them will get the payment
The claimant qualifies and lives with someone (not their partner) who qualifies, and either or both of them gets one of the benefits	£500 – both get the payment	£600 – both get the payment
The claimant qualifies, lives in a care home and gets one of the benefits	Nil	Nil

## Appendix 2 - Phasing table for Winter Fuel Payments

Winter	Qualifying Week	Qualifying age for Winter Fuel Payments	Dates of birth of people who will qualify
2010/11	20-26 Sept 2010	60yrs & 2mths	Born on or before 5/7/50
2011/12	19-25 Sept 2011	60yrs & 8mths	Born on or before 5/1/51
2012/13	17-23 Sept 2012	61yrs & 2mths	Born on or before 5/7/51
2013/14	16-22 Sept 2013	61yrs & 8mths	Born on or before 5/1/52
2014/15	15-21 Sept 2014	62yrs & 2mths	Born on or before 5/7/52
2015/16	21-27 Sept 2015	62yrs & 8mths	Born on or before 5/1/53
2016/17	19-25 Sept 2016	63yrs & 4mths	Born on or before 5/5/53
2017/18	18-24 Sept 2017	64yrs & 1mth	Born on or before 5/8/53
2018/19	17-23 Sept 2018	64yrs & 10mths	Born on or before 5/11/53
2019/20	16-22 Sept 2019	65yrs & 4mths	Born on or before 5/4/54
2020/21	21-27 Sept 2020	65yrs & 11mths	Born on or before 5/10/54
2021/22	20-26 Sept 2021	66yrs	Born on or before 26/9/55
2022/23	19-25 Sept 2022	66yrs	Born on or before

			25/9/56
2023/24	18-24 Sept 2023	66 yrs	Born on or before 24/9/57