Department for Work & Pensions

Opting out of **Winter Fuel Payment**

Easy Read



Our reference: **WFP2ER** 10/26

Contents

1

Department for Work & Pensions

Introduction

Page 3

2



Winter Fuel Payment recovery

Page 4

3



Opting out of Winter Fuel Payment

Page 6

4



Where to find more information

Page 11

1 Introduction

Department for Work & Pensions

Winter Fuel Payment is money from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).



In England and Wales, older people may get Winter Fuel Payment to help them with their heating bills.



The information in this leaflet is about Winter Fuel Payment changes from 2026 and if you need to pay it back.

For more Easy Read information on Winter Fuel Payment, go to www.gov.uk

Search for '**Easy Read Winter Fuel Payment**'

2 Winter Fuel Payment recovery



Did you receive a Winter Fuel Payment?

HM Revenue & Customs

Depending on your income, HMRC may be taking back your 2025 payment.



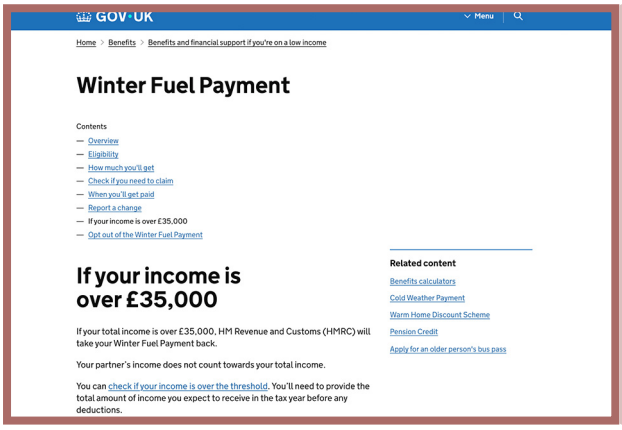
If your total individual income for 2025/26 and 2026/27 tax years was £35,000 or less, you will keep your 2025 and 2026 Winter Fuel Payment.



If it was more than £35,000, HMRC will take it back.



HMRC looks at the income of each person in a household separately.



GOV.UK Menu

Home > Benefits > Benefits and financial support if you're on a low income

Winter Fuel Payment

Contents

- Overview
- Eligibility
- How much you'll get
- Check if you need to claim
- When you'll get paid
- Report a change
- If your income is over £35,000
- Opt out of the Winter Fuel Payment

If your income is over £35,000

If your total income is over £35,000, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will take your Winter Fuel Payment back.

Your partner's income does not count towards your total income.

You can check if your income is over the threshold. You'll need to provide the total amount of income you expect to receive in the tax year before any deductions.

Related content

- Benefits calculators
- Cold Weather Payment
- Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Pension Credit
- Apply for an older person's bus pass

To find out how HMRC recover the payment, go to:

www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/if-your-income-is-over-35000

3 Opting out of Winter Fuel Payment



If you expect your income to be over £35,000, you can opt out of Winter Fuel Payments in the future.

HM Revenue & Customs

You may do this instead of HMRC taking the payment back through tax system.



You cannot opt out of Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2026/27 as that exercise is now live.

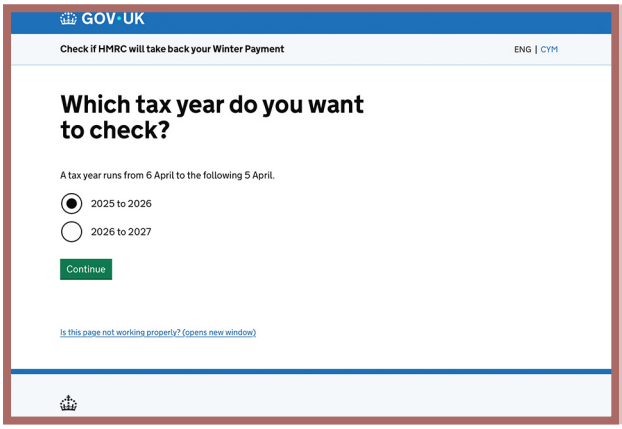


21 December 2026

You can opt out of Winter Fuel Payment for the 2027/28 winter from Monday 21st December 2026.



You can find help to check whether your income is over the threshold.



HMRC has a calculator on GOV.UK to help you to do this.

Go to:

www.tax.service.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-hmrc-will-take-back-your-winter-payment/start/tax-year

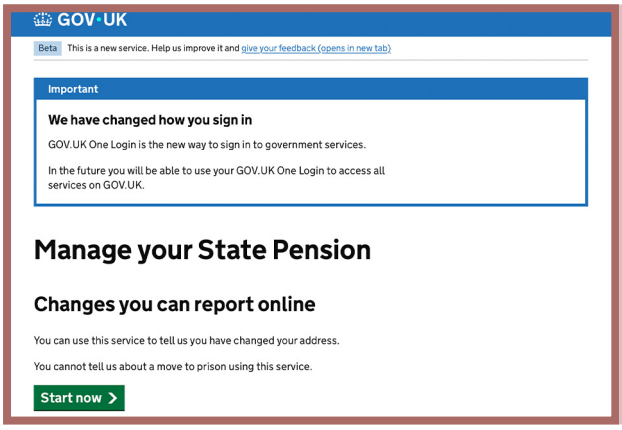


Opting out is quick and simple to do online via GOV.UK

You just need to complete and submit a simple form.



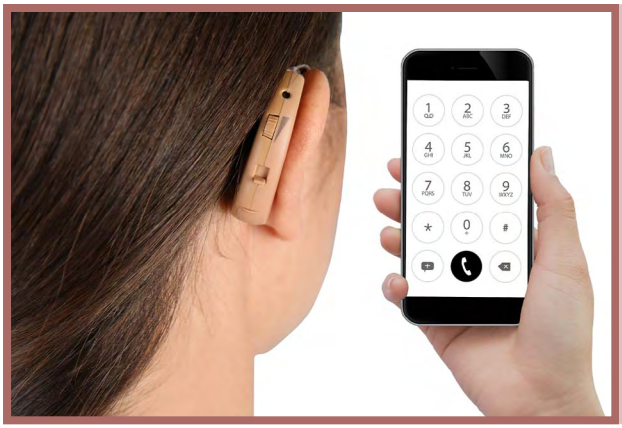
There is now the option to opt out using the GOV.UK One Login.



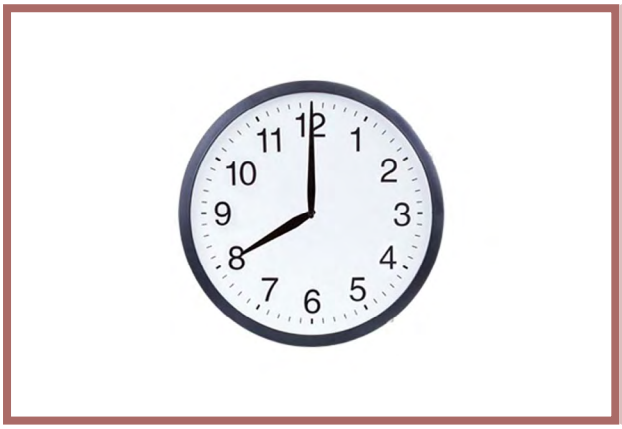
If you have signed up, or want to sign up, you can opt-out via the ‘Manage your State Pension’ service.



If you do not want to do this, you can call us using your telephone.



Telephone: 0800 731 0160



This helpline is open Monday to Friday. 8am to 6pm.



If you are deaf and use British Sign Language you may be able to use the Video Relay Service.



If you cannot hear or speak on the phone, use Relay UK:

18001 then 0800 731 0160



You can opt back in to get the Winter Fuel Payment again at any time.

You may do this if your circumstances change.

For more information about opting out of Winter Fuel Payment, go to www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/opt-out-of-winter-fuel-payment

4 Where to find more information



Go to www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment for more information on:

- Eligibility
- Amounts
- Key dates.

mygov.scot

If you live in Scotland, go to:

mygov.scot/pension-age-winter-heating-payment



This information is a guide only.