

COLD WEATHER PAYMENT INFORMATION SHEET

Overview

You may get a Cold Weather Payment if you are getting certain benefits or Support for Mortgage Interest.

You will get a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees celsius or below over 7 consecutive days.

You will get £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

Cold Weather Payments are different to Winter Fuel Payments.

What will you get?

You will get £25 for each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March.

After each period of very cold weather in your area, you should get a payment within 14 working days. It is paid into the same bank or building society account as your benefit payments.

Cold Weather Payments do not affect your other benefits.

Eligibility

You may get Cold Weather Payments if you're getting:

- Pension Credit – usually you will get Cold Weather Payments
- Income Support – usually you will get Cold Weather Payments if you have any of the following (i) a disabled child, (ii) receive a disability or pensioner premium, (iii) Child Tax Credit that includes a disability or severe disability element, (iv) a child under 5 living with you.
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance – usually you will get Cold Weather Payments if you have any of the following (i) a disabled child, (ii) receive a disability or pensioner premium, (iii) Child Tax Credit that includes a disability or severe disability element, (iv) a child under 5 living with you.
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance – usually you will get Cold Weather Payments if you are in a work-related activity group or support group. If you are not in either group, you might get Cold Weather Payments if you have any of the following (i) a severe or enhanced disability premium, (ii) a pensioner premium, (iii) a child who is disabled, (iv) Child Tax Credit that includes a disability or severe disability element, (v) a child under 5 living with you.

- Universal Credit – Usually you will get Cold Weather Payments if you are not employed or self-employed. One of the following must also apply (i) you have a health condition or disability and have limited capability for work (with or without work-related activity), (ii) a child under 5 living with you. You will also be eligible if you have a disabled child premium in your claim, whether you are employed or not.
- Support for Mortgage Interest – Usually you will get Cold Weather Payments

How to claim

You do not need to apply. If you are eligible to get a Cold Weather Payment, you will be paid automatically.

If you have a baby or a child under 5 comes to live with you

Tell Jobcentre Plus if you get Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Income-related Employment and Support Allowance and:

- You have had a baby
- A child under 5 has come to live with you

You will not automatically get Cold Weather Payments if you do not.

If you do not receive your Cold Weather Payment

Tell your Pension Centre or Jobcentre Plus office if you think you should have received a Cold Weather Payment but you have not.

If you're getting Universal Credit, sign in to your account and add a note to your journal.

If you do not have an online account, ring the Universal Credit helpline instead. The phone number is on letters about your Universal Credit claim.

Hospital Stays

Tell your Pension Centre or Jobcentre Plus office if you go into hospital - this could affect your payment.

If you're getting Universal Credit, sign in to your account and add a note to your journal.

If you do not have an online account, ring the Universal Credit helpline instead. The phone number is on letters about your Universal.