

WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS INFORMATION SHEET

Overview

If you were born on or before 5 October 1954 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

You will get your Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you are eligible and either:

- Get the State Pension
- Get another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Child Benefit or Universal Credit)

If you do not get either of these, or if you live abroad, you may need to make a claim.

If you have received a Winter Fuel Payment before, you do not need to claim again unless you have deferred your State Pension or moved abroad.

The deadline for making a claim is 31 March for the previous winter, i.e. 31 March 2022 for winter 2021 to 2022.

When will you be paid?

Most payments are made automatically in November or December. You should receive your money by 31 March 2022. You will get a letter telling you how much you will get and an estimated payment date. The payment will be paid into an account, such as a bank account.

Eligibility

You qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment if both the following apply:

- you were born on or before 5 October 1954
- you lived in the UK for at least one day during the week of 20 to 26 September 2021 - this is called the 'qualifying week'

If you did not live in the UK during the qualifying week, you might still get the payment if both the following apply:

- you live in Switzerland or a European Economic Area (EEA) country
- you have a genuine and sufficient link to the UK - this can include having lived or worked in the UK, and having family in the UK

You cannot get the payment if you live in Cyprus, France, Gibraltar, Greece, Malta, Portugal or Spain because the average winter temperature is higher than the warmest region of the UK.

You may still be able to get a Cold Weather Payment or the Warm Home Discount Scheme, even if you do not qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment.

When will you not qualify?

You will not qualify if you:

- are in hospital getting free treatment for more than a year
- need permission to enter the UK and your granted leave states that you can not claim public funds
- were in prison for the whole week from 20 to 26 September 2021
- lived in a care home for the whole time from 28 June to 26 September 2021, and got Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance

How much will you receive?

How much you receive depends on your circumstances during the qualifying week. The qualifying week for winter 2021 to 2022 is 20 to 26 September 2021.

Any money you get is tax-free and will not affect your other benefits.

	Born between 28 September 1940 and 5 October 1954	Born on or before 27 September 1940
You qualify and live alone (or none of the people you live with qualify)	£200	£300
You qualify and live with someone under 80 who also qualifies	£100	£200
You qualify and live with someone 80 or over who also qualifies	£100	£150
You qualify, live in a care home and do not get certain benefits	£100	£150

What if I get certain benefits?

Your payment may be different if you or your partner get one of the following benefits:

- Pension Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support

	Born between 28 September 1940 and 5 October 1954	Born on or before 27 September 1940
You qualify, get one of the benefits and live alone (or none of the people you live with qualify)	£200	£300
You qualify and live with someone who also gets one of the benefits	£200 - only one of you will get the payment	£300 - only one of you will get the payment
You qualify, live in a care home and get one of the benefits	Nil	Nil