

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics: Winter 2021/2022

Key figures

- As of 31 March 2022, 19,865 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments had been issued for winter 2021/2022 [Table 1].
- The total value of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments issued for winter 2021/2022 was £4.0 million [Table 1].
- The total value of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments issued since November 2020 was £7.7 million [Table 1].

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Child Winter Heating Assistance for Winter 2022/2023 will be released in 2023.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice is found online at: <https://code.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications/>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments in winter 2021/2022. This publication covers payments issued to 31 March 2022, and provides updated figures for payments from winter 2020/2021. Winter 2021/2022 refers to payments relating to the qualifying week of September 2021. Winter 2020/2021 refers to payments relating to the qualifying week of September 2020.

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced in November 2020 by Scottish Ministers and is administered by Social Security Scotland. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an automatic payment for children and young people under 19. The payment for winter 2021/2022 was £202.

To be eligible, children and young people must receive the highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment or Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment. From winter 2022/2023, young people in receipt of the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment will also be eligible for the payment.

The child or young person must be entitled to receive the qualifying benefit at this rate for at least one day of the qualifying week, which is the week beginning with the third Monday in September every year. In 2021, this was the week beginning Monday 20 September. The [Background Note](#) has further detail on eligibility.

All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at:
<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about/statistics/social-security-scotland-statistics-publications>

The statistics for Child Winter Heating Assistance are being published as experimental statistics, which are defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics as "new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage." These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, so have not been designated as National Statistics³.

³ For more information on experimental statistics please see:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/experimental-statistics-official-statistics-in-development/>

Winter 2021/2022

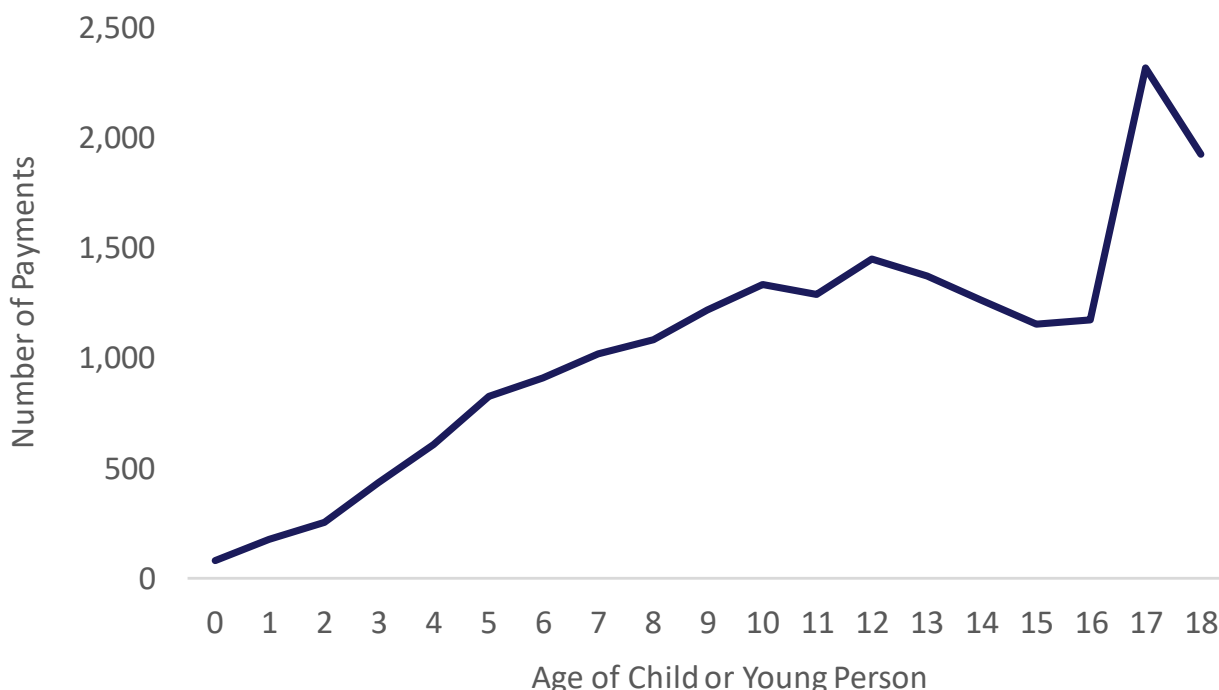
Number of payments

- In total, 19,865 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments were issued for winter 2021/2022, with a total value of £4.0 million **[Table 1]**.

Payments by child age

- Overall, the number of children in receipt generally increased from age 0 to age 12, with over half of payments being for children aged 0 to 12. Above age 12, the number of children in receipt decreased with age, to age 16. The number of young people in receipt then increased to age 17. Ages 17 and 18 accounted for 22% of payments in winter 2021/2022 **[Table 1, Chart 1]**.

Chart 1: Number of payments by age of child or young person



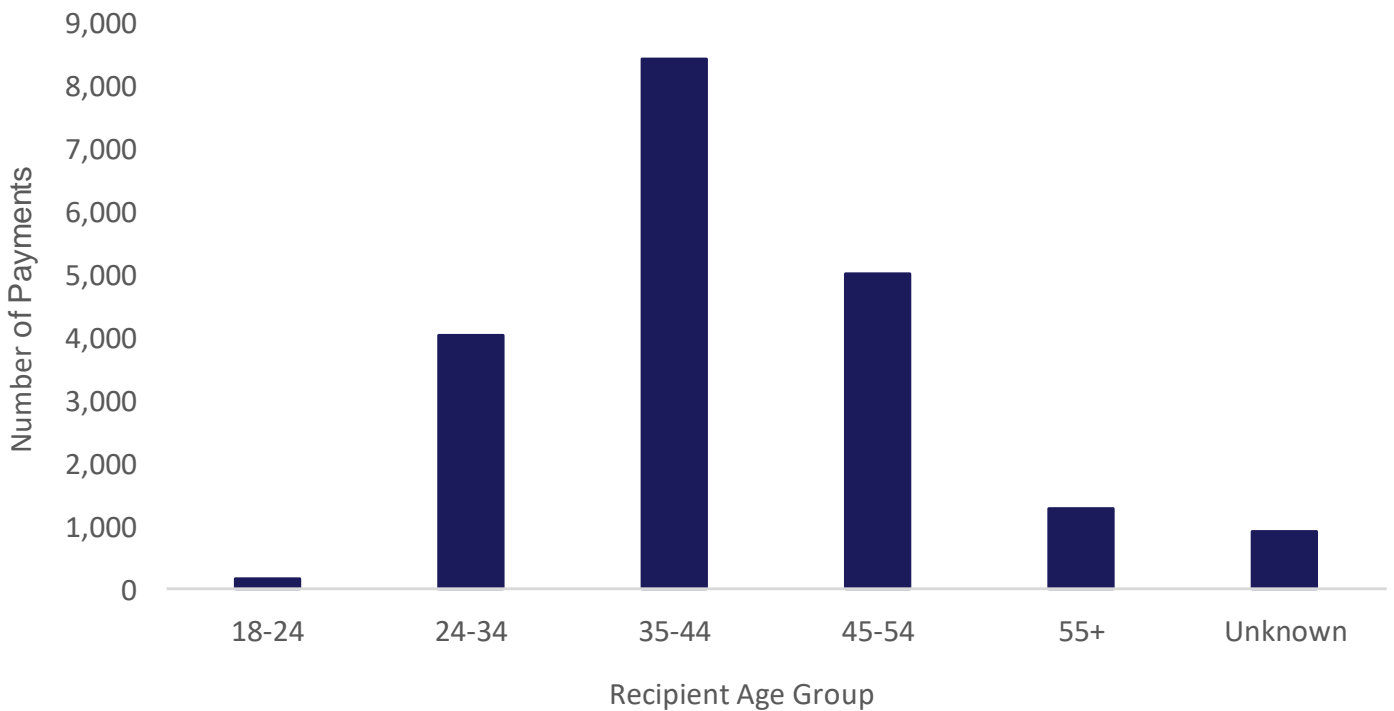
Number of recipients

- In this publication, the word ‘recipient’ is used to describe someone who a Child Winter Heating Assistance payment is issued to, to be used for the benefit of the child or young person. Recipients may include, for example, parents, guardians or organisations acting on behalf of a child or young person. Types of recipient are described further in the [background note](#).
- Payments were received by at least 17,930 different recipients. Of these, 6% received more than one payment [Table 2].
- There were an additional 740 payments issued where recipient National Insurance Number was missing. It is not possible to determine whether these were an additional 740 different individuals [Table 2].

Payments by age of recipient

- Around 42% of recipients receiving payment were aged 35 to 44, with 87% aged 24 to 54 [Table 3, Chart 2]. This is as expected given that many recipients will be parents or guardians of children or young people.

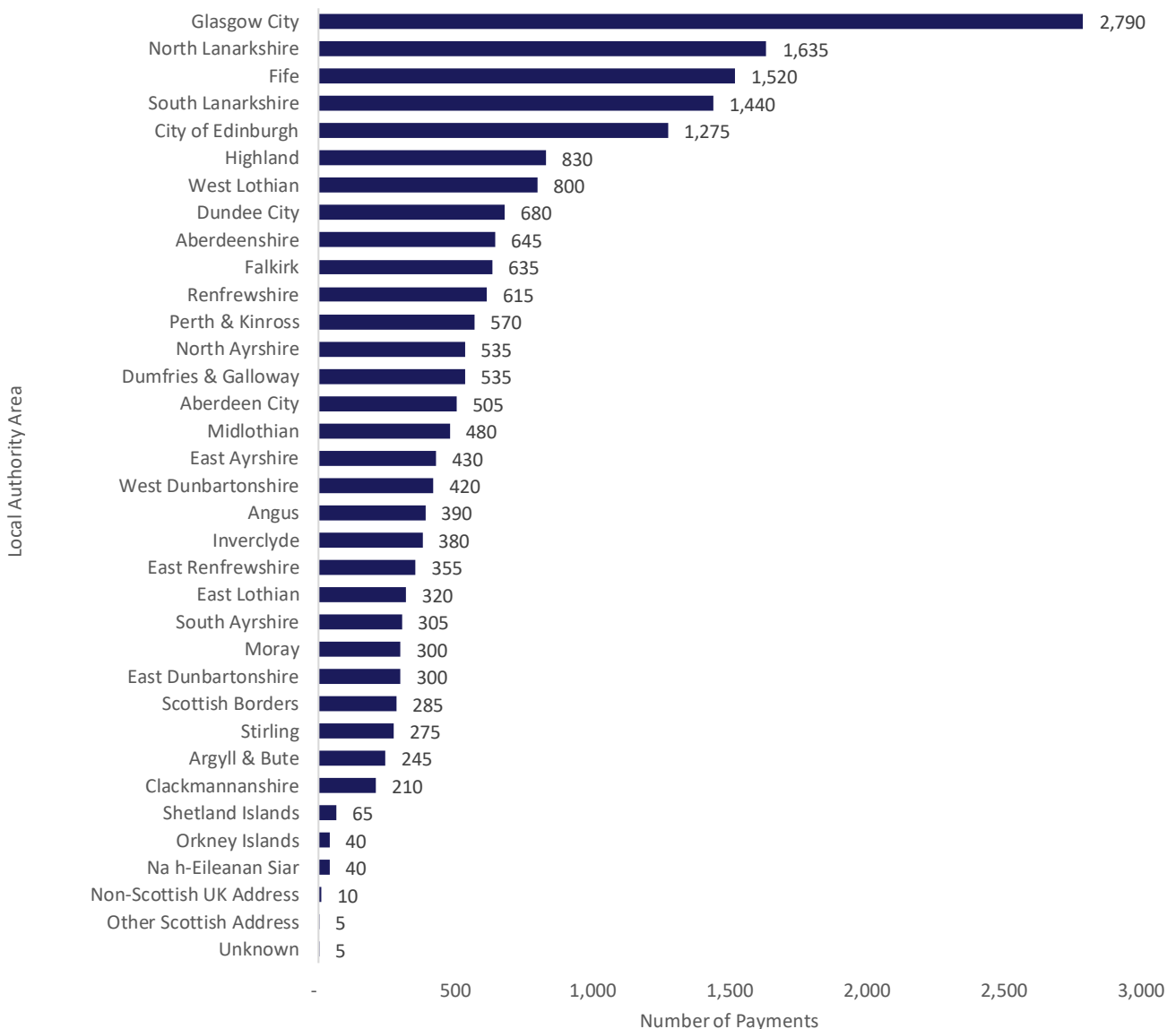
Chart 2: Number of payments by age of recipient



Payments by local authority area

- Payments were issued for children living in all 32 local authority areas in Scotland. The local authorities with the greatest numbers of payments were Glasgow City with 14% of payments, North Lanarkshire with 8% and Fife with 8% [Table 4, Chart 3].
- A small number of payments were for children with a non-Scottish UK address. A small number of payments were for children or young people that could not be matched to a local authority. These payments account for less than one per cent of the total number of payments issued. More information about this can be found in the [data quality section](#).

Chart 3: Number of payments by local authority area



Payments by qualifying benefit

- For winter 2021/2022, 55 payments were issued for children or young people eligible through Child Disability Payment. This accounts for less than one percent of payments. The remaining 19,810 payments were for children or young people eligible through either Disability Living Allowance for Children or Personal Independence Payment **[Table 5]**.

Payments by month

- For winter 2021/2022, the majority of payments were made by the end of December 2021, with around 13% of payments issued in November 2021, and 80% of payments issued in December 2021. Around 6% of payments were issued in January 2022 **[Table 6b]**.

Child Winter Heating Assistance since November 2020

Figures for winter 2020/2021 have been updated to include payments issued after the last publication of Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics, and backdated payments.

Number of payments

- Since November 2020, 38,180 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments have been issued in total. Of these, 19,865 were for winter 2021/22 and 18,315 were for winter 2020/2021 **[Table 6a]**.
- Of the payments for winter 2020/2021, 14,025 were issued between November 2020 and March 2021. Around 4,110 backdated payments were issued in March 2022, as eligibility was extended to young people aged 16-18 who qualified through Personal Independence Payment. These young people were entitled to backdated payments for winter 2020/2021 **[Table 6b]**.

Value of payments

- In total, £7.7 million has been issued in payments since November 2020. Of this, £4.0 million was for winter 2021/2022, with each payment being for £202. The remaining £3.7 million was for winter 2020/2021, with each payment being for £200 **[Table 6a]**.

Payments by child age

- The proportions of children or young people in each age band have remained similar, with the biggest change being for age 17 which has increased from 10% in winter 2020/2021 to 12% in winter 2021/2022 **[Table 1]**.
- In November 2021, eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance was extended to 16 to 18 year olds in receipt of the highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment. Young people who met these criteria during the qualifying week in 2020 were entitled to a backdated payment for winter 2020/2021. The figures for winter 2020/2021 have been revised to include these backdated payments for 16 to 18 year olds **[Table 1]**.

Multiple children

- The proportion of recipients receiving payment for more than one child or young person has remained similar, increasing from 5% in winter 2020/2021 to 6% in winter 2021/2022 **[Table 2]**.

Payments by recipient age

- The percentage of recipients in each age group is similar for winter 2020/2021 and winter 2021/2022, changing by up to 1% for each age group **[Table 3]**.

Payments by local authority area

- The percentage of children or young people in each local authority area is similar for winter 2020/2021 and winter 2021/2022, changing by up to 1% for each local authority area **[Table 4]**.

Re-determinations

- From November 2020 to 31st March 2022, 40 re-determinations were recorded for Child Winter Heating Assistance. Around 63% of these were not upheld, and 38% were withdrawn **[Table 7]**.
- Some of these re-determinations were likely made in error, as some clients have mistakenly 'applied' for Child Winter Heating Assistance without knowing the payment was automatic. The outcomes of not upheld were mainly due to payment already having been made automatically. The withdrawn re-determination figures indicate where explanations were provided to clients and they went on to withdraw their re-determination as these were made in error. More information about this can be found in the [data quality section](#).

Background to Child Winter Heating Assistance

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced in November 2020 by the Scottish Government. It is paid once a year by Social Security Scotland. The payment for winter 2021/2022 was £202. Due to uprating the payment for 2022/2023 will be £214.10. Children and young people in Scotland can get the assistance if they are under 19 years old and get one of the following 'qualifying benefits':

- The highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment
- The highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance for children
- The enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment
- The enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment.

They must be getting this on at least one day in the week starting with the third Monday of September (called the 'qualifying week'). In 2021, this was Monday 20 September to Sunday 26 September. As Adult Disability Payment was not live during the qualifying week in 2021, there were not young people eligible through Adult Disability Payment in the period covered by this publication.

If a child or young person gets a qualifying benefit but did not live in Scotland between 20 September and 26 September 2021, they might still qualify if they:

- are habitually resident in [Switzerland or certain European Economic Area \(EEA\) countries](#) specified in the Schedule of the Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Regulations (2020); and
- can show they have a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland.

If a child or young person is entitled to one of the qualifying benefits but this was not being paid in the qualifying week, they might still be entitled to Child Winter Heating Assistance. It depends on why payments were not being issued that week. If this was because the child or young person was staying in residential care or was in hospital, they will still get Child Winter Heating Assistance.

If there is more than one child or young person who qualifies in the household, they each get a payment.

The majority of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments are issued automatically without requiring an application. In limited circumstances clients may have to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance. This could apply for example, when a child or young person no longer lives in Scotland but has a link to Scotland. For example that they, or their parent or guardian, have spent a significant part of their life in Scotland.

Clients may also need to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance if they receive a backdated Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment award for the qualifying week. In these circumstances clients may apply by phone or by completing a paper form. Social Security Scotland is working to identify clients who have become eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance through Child Disability Payment after the Child Winter Heating Assistance payments were issued, and automatically send them their backdated payments. However, if a client receives a backdated Child Disability Payment award for the qualifying week, they may also apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance themselves at this time. In these circumstances clients may apply by phone or by completing a paper form.

People receiving Child Winter Heating Assistance payments can include:

- young people aged 16 to 18 who manage their own money
- someone with parental rights and responsibilities (e.g. parents, guardians)
- an appointee – either a personal acting body (someone who acts on behalf of an individual e.g. an informal kinship carer) or a corporate acting body (an organisation that acts on behalf of the child or young person e.g. a solicitor, local authority or third sector organisation)

In this publication, the word ‘recipient’ is used to describe someone who a Child Winter Heating Assistance payment was issued to, to be used for the benefit of the child or young person.

Disability Living Allowance for children

From 1 April 2020, executive competence for Disability Living Allowance for children was transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland. There is a transitional period during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Disability Living Allowance on Social Security Scotland’s behalf.

Disability Living Allowance for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16 and has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. They must have had these needs for at least 3 months and expect them to last for at least 6 months. If they have a terminal illness that means they are unlikely to live for more than six months, they do not need to have had these needs for 3 months. Children may qualify for one or both components – the care component and the mobility component. The highest rate of the care component applies where the child needs help or supervision throughout both day and night, or if they’re terminally ill.

Child Disability Payment, which replaced Disability Living Allowance for children, launched nationally in Scotland on Monday 22 November 2021. For Child Disability Payment, eligibility was extended from 16 years to 18 years for those already in receipt of this assistance before turning 16.

Child Disability Payment

Child Disability Payment is the first of the application-based disability benefits to be introduced by the Scottish Government. It provides money to help with the extra care and mobility costs that a child living with a disability might have. Child Disability Payment consists of two components, the care component and the mobility component.

The pilot launched on the 26 July 2021 for new applicants living in of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. On 22 November 2021, Child Disability Payment launched nationwide to all new applicants living in Scotland. From 11 October 2021, children who are aged over 15 and a half to 17 who get Disability Living Allowance for children from the Department for Work and Pensions started to have their award transferred to Child Disability Payment in phases. Clients under 15 and a half years old will have their award transferred from spring 2022. Social Security Scotland aims to have the transfer process completed for everyone in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children by spring 2023.

Personal Independence Payment

Personal Independence Payment is provided to support working age clients with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill health or terminal ill health.

From 1 April 2020, Personal Independence Payment became one of the benefits to have executive competency transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of Scottish Government that is responsible for delivering the social security benefits for Scotland.

There is a transitional period to allow administration of this benefit to be transferred, during which the Department for Work and Pensions will continue to administer Personal Independence Payment on Social Security Scotland's behalf.

In November 2021, eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance was extended to young people aged 16 to 18 who are in receipt of the enhanced daily living component of Personal Independence Payment during the qualifying week. Young people who met these criteria during the qualifying week in 2020 were entitled to a backdated payment of £200 for winter 2020/2021.

The Scottish Government is replacing Personal Independence Payment with Adult Disability Payment. The Adult Disability Payment Pilot was launched on 21 March 2022 for new applicants living in of Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan Siar and Perth and Kinross. It will be rolled out further over the summer, followed by a national launch on 29 August 2022.

People who currently receive adult disability benefits through the Department for Work and Pensions will have their awards transferred to Social Security Scotland

from August, without any interruptions to their award. They will not have to apply for Adult Disability Payment.

In early 2022, Child Winter Heating Assistance eligibility was extended to young people in receipt of the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Adult Disability Payment during the qualifying week. This change will apply from winter 2022/2023 onward.

About the data

How data is collected

Social Security Scotland identifies children or young people in payment of the highest rate of the care component of Child Disability Payment during the qualifying week in order to issue their Child Winter Heating Assistance payments. The Department for Work and Pensions runs a scan of the information they hold on those in payment of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment during the qualifying week. The Department for Work and Pensions then securely transfers the necessary data to Social Security Scotland to allow them to issue Child Winter Heating Assistance payments. Future scans will not include details of children or young people whose award was backdated to previous years, only children or young people eligible at the point of the scan.

A small number of clients may also apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance separately through a paper form or by telephone. This includes clients that were not included in the Department for Work and Pensions scan and are making backdated applications for Child Winter Heating Assistance.

Child Winter Heating Assistance cases and payments are managed through the Social Security Scotland case management system. A cut of data was extracted from the case management system on 1 April 2022. This includes information about each case that has been created since the introduction of Child Winter Heating Assistance in November 2020 to 31 March 2022. It is not currently possible to distinguish automatic payments based on details sent from the Department for Work and Pensions from payments issued as the result of separate applications received by Social Security Scotland.

Data quality

Payments

This publication presents data for Child Winter Heating Assistance cases where a payment value had been recorded on the case management system by 31 March 2022. This accounts for over 99% of the cases that were on the case management system at this date. A recorded payment value indicates that a child or young person had been found to be eligible, and that an instruction had been sent to Social Security Scotland finance to make a payment. The majority of recipients in winter 2021/2022 were paid in December 2021, and therefore most recipients will

have received payments by 31 March 2022. However, there can be a delay before payments are issued, and it can take up to four working days for payments to reach recipients' accounts once issued, so it is possible that a small number of payments had not been received by this date.

The remaining less than 1% of cases that are not included in this publication may not have had payment values for a variety of reasons, for example, (i) the child or young person was found to be ineligible, (ii) Social Security Scotland needs further information, or (iii) the case was created in error and a payment will never be issued for that case.

Missing and duplicate information

The data comes from 100% data cut of the Child Winter Heating Assistance cases on the Social Security Scotland case management system. National Insurance Number and child reference number are 'hashed', or turned into a string of letters and numbers that analysts cannot use to identify people, but can be used as a unique anonymous reference for clients. Information about child reference number was complete for all cases. Information about child date of birth and postcode was missing for less than 1% of cases. Information about adult National Insurance Number, date of birth and postcode is missing for around 5% of cases.

Age

Age of children or young people and recipients is based on age at the start of the qualifying week. In a small number of cases age band is 'unknown'. This is either due to missing date of birth information or an error in date of birth (e.g. recipient date of birth recorded in place of child date of birth).

Local Authority

Payments are assigned to local authority by the residential postcode of the child or young person, using a Scottish Government lookup file. A small number of payments could not be matched to local authority due to their supplied postcodes not matching the lookup file. Some of these postcodes were identified as being in Scotland, and may relate to new builds with newly created postcodes. Some of these postcodes matched to other areas within the UK, outside of Scotland. This may be, for example, where a child has moved since the qualifying week, or where a child has a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland. A small number of children's postcodes were missing.

Multiple children

Recipients that received payments for more than one child or young person have been identified based on hashed National Insurance Number. Recipients with missing National Insurance Number have been excluded from this analysis.

Rounding

Number of payments have been rounded to the nearest five payments for disclosure control. Value of payments have been rounded to the nearest £1,000 for disclosure control. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1%. Data has been suppressed where it would disclose fewer than five payments.

Backdating

Backdated payments have been issued to clients who retrospectively became eligible during the qualifying week in 2020 for winter 2020/2021. In November 2021, eligibility was extended to 16-18 year olds who receive the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment. If a young person was entitled in the qualifying week in 2020, they are entitled to a backdated payment for winter 2020/2021. The majority of these backdated payments were issued in March 2022. In this publication and tables, these backdated payments have been included with winter 2020/2021 payments, revising the data from the last publication.

Re-determinations

Children and young people eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance were sent letters by Social Security Scotland to notify them of the payment. Some clients mistook this letter for a reminder to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance is an automatic payment and does not require an application. The outcomes of not upheld were mainly due to payment already having been made automatically. The withdrawn re-determination figures indicate where explanations were provided to clients and they went on to withdraw their re-determination as these were made in error.

Sex

Information on sex of the child or young person was published in the previous publication in April 2021. This information was taken from the data transferred by the Department for Work and Pensions rather than Social Security Scotland's case management system. However, at the time of this publication, the equivalent data for this year was not yet available. We will consider the possible inclusion of this data if it becomes available in future.

Comparisons between Child Winter Heating Assistance Statistics and Statistics for the Qualifying Benefits

The eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance is dependent on a child or young person being under 19 years old, and in receipt of either the highest rate of care component of Child Disability Payment, the highest rate of care component of Disability Living Allowance, or the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment.

The data is therefore similar to the Child Disability Statistics published by Social Security Scotland, and the Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment statistics for children in Scotland published on StatXplore by the Department for Work and Pensions at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>. However, there are a number of differences between these sets of data:

- The qualifying benefits are all rolling payments with quarterly publication schedules. Child Winter Heating Assistance is not a rolling payment – it is paid once a year to children that were eligible in the third full week of September, and data will be published after payments are issued once a year.
- There are two Disability Living Allowance datasets, covering ‘in payment’ only, and all those ‘with entitlement’. Child Winter Heating Assistance eligibility is based on children being in payment of a qualifying benefit, with the exception of children whose payments have stopped for example because they are in a care home or hospital, who remain eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance.
- Child Winter Heating Assistance and Child Disability Payment statistics could include children or young people who are eligible because they have a link to Scotland, but are not residing in Scotland. Disability Living Allowance for children and Personal Independence Payment statistics for Scotland will only include children and young people ordinarily resident in Scotland, based on address history.
- Disability Living Allowance for children is being replaced by Child Disability Payment in Scotland. For Child Disability Payment, eligibility has been extended from 16 years to 18 years for those already in receipt of assistance before turning 16. Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children in Scotland who turn 16 on or after 1 September 2020 are not being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment at age 16, and instead have remained in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children. These children are eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics therefore include young people aged 16, 17 and 18. While Disability Living Allowance statistics on [StatXplore](#) will include these 16, 17 and 18 year olds, they are classed as ‘Working age’ rather than ‘Child’.
- In November 2021, eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance was extended to young people under 19 who receive the enhanced rate of the daily living component of Personal Independence Payment. Child Winter Heating Statistics therefore now also include these 16, 17 and 18 year olds and refers to them as

'young people'. In Personal Independence Payment Statistics on [StatXplore](#) they are referred to as 'working age people'.

Related Social Security Scotland publications

Statistics published by Social Security Scotland can be found at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about/statistics/social-security-scotland-statistics-publications>

The latest Child Disability Payment statistics publication can be found at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/reporting/publications/child-disability-payment-pilot-high-level-statistics-to-31-december-2021>

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How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/about/statistics/social-security-scotland-statistics-publications>

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