



Social Security
Scotland

Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

What is Pension Age Winter Heating Payment?

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment is an annual payment to help people of pension age pay their heating bills.

It replaces Winter Fuel Payment from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in Scotland.

Who gets the payment?

State pensioners in Scotland who were born on or before 21 September 1959 will get the payment in winter 2025/2026.

If their taxable income is over £35,000, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will take the payment back through the tax system.

Do people need to apply?

Most people will be paid automatically and do not need to apply.

How much is the payment?

People will receive a payment of between £101.70 and £305.10 depending on their circumstances during the qualifying week (15 to 21 September 2025)

How and when is the payment made?

Most people do not need to do anything and will get the payment automatically into the same account as their state pension or Social Security Scotland benefits.

Payments will start to be made from November 2025 and continue throughout the winter.

People who are over state pension age and have a taxable income of over £35,000 will also receive the payment. However, the amount will then be taken back by HMRC.

How will HMRC calculate people's annual income?

The £35,000 annual income threshold will include taxable income. For example: state pension, private pensions, employment and non-ISA savings and investments.

People can use an online tool available at mygov.scot/pensionheating to check if their income is over the threshold and how HMRC will take it back.

When will HMRC take back Pension Age Winter Heating Payments paid to people with an income of over £35,000?

HMRC will write to people with more information. The money will be reclaimed by tax code under PAYE. People who use Self Assessment will have to include their Pension Age Winter Heating Payment as income in their tax return.

Can people opt out of receiving the payment?

Yes. People can choose to opt out of getting all future Pension Age Winter Heating Payments. Find out how to opt out by visiting mygov.scot/pensionheating.

Will getting the payment impact other benefits?

No. Getting Pension Age Winter Heating Payment will not impact any other benefits or tax assessments.

People should report a change of circumstance to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), for example moving into a care home or living with someone else who is eligible, to make sure they get the correct value of payment.

Who might need to apply for the payment?

People might need to apply for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment if they:

- deferred their State Pension
- are not getting another benefit from the Department for Work and Pensions, the Ministry of Defence or Social Security Scotland
- are a couple with a joint award for Pension Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support or Universal Credit and the main person getting that benefit is under State Pension age

How can people apply?

To apply for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment people can either call Social Security Scotland free on 0800 182 2222 to apply over the phone or ask to get a paper application form sent to them.

The deadline to apply for winter 2025/2026 is 31 March 2026.

How much are people likely to receive?

Who lives in the house?	How old are they?	How much will they get?
One person above state pension age	Under 80 years old	£203.40
	Over 80 years old	£305.10
More than one person above state pension age	Both are under 80 years old	£101.70 each
	Both are over 80 years old	£152.55 each
	One is under 80 and one is over 80 years old	The person under 80 will get £101.70 and the person over 80 will get £203.40
Couple jointly claiming Pension Credit	Both under 80 years old	£203.40 in one lump sum
	One is over 80 years old	£305.10 in one lump sum
Individual receiving certain benefits*	Under 80 years old	£203.40 regardless of who they live with
	Over 80 years old	£305.10 regardless of who they live with
Individual living in residential care and not receiving benefits	Under 80 years old	£101.70
	Over 80 years old	£152.55
People who live in residential care and receive certain benefits* are not eligible for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment		
*Benefits include: Pension Credit, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Income Support, Universal Credit		

How can people contact us?



Call us free on: 0800 182 2222



British Sign Language users:
contactscotland-bsl.org



Text Relay Service: 18001 +0300
244 4000 (for the hard of hearing)



Webchat: chat.socialsecurity.gov.scot

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