

Social Security Scotland Statistics

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment statistics for winter 2024/2025

Key figures

As of 30 June 2025:

- A total of 126,035 Pension Age Winter Heating Payments had been issued for winter 2024/2025.
- The total value of Pension Age Winter Heating Payments issued for winter 2024/2025 was £29.6 million.

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Winter Heating Benefits for winter 2025/2026 will be released in 2026.

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

¹ The Code of Practice for Statistics is available on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#).

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available on the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Pension Age Winter Heating Payment for winter 2024/2025. It covers payments issued up to 30 June 2025. Winter 2024/2025 refers to payments relating to the qualifying week Monday 16 September to Sunday 22 September 2024.

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment is an annual payment that helps people of State Pension age with winter heating costs. It replaced the UK Government's Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland from winter 2024/2025. In winter 2024/2025, the payment was administered and paid by the Department for Work and Pensions under an agency agreement with Scottish Ministers. From winter 2025/2026, it will be delivered by Social Security Scotland.

Eligibility in winter 2024/2025 depended on being of State Pension age during the qualifying week, meeting residency and presence conditions, and receiving at least one specified qualifying benefit during that week.

The qualifying benefits were:

- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit (where the award is not less than £26 in respect of the tax year 2024-25)

Payment amounts in winter 2024/2025 were £200 per household where the oldest eligible person was aged 66 to 79, and £300 per household where at least one eligible person was aged 80 or over. Most eligible households received the payment automatically.

All tables relating to this publication can be found at the [Social Security Scotland website](#).

The statistics for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment are being published as Official Statistics in Development, 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 Accredited Official Statistics³.

³ For more information on Official Statistics in Development, please see the [Office for Statistics Regulation website](#).

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment in Winter 2024/2025

Number of payments

- By 30 June 2025, 126,035 Pension Age Winter Heating Payments had been issued for people eligible in the qualifying week. The qualifying week ran from Monday 16 September to Sunday 22 September 2024 [**Pension Age Winter Heating Payment Table 1a**].
- Payments were made for either £200 or £300 dependant on the age of the eligible person. The total expenditure for winter 2024/2025 was £29.6 million [**Pension Age Winter Heating Payment Table 1b**].
- The number and value of payments issued may increase as payments for winter 2024/2025 continue to be made after the cut-off date of the publication.

Payments by month

- For winter 2024/2025, the majority of payments were made in December 2024, with around 94% of payments issued in that month. Around 6% of payments were issued from January 2025 onwards [**Pension Age Winter Heating Payment Table 1b**].

Payments by value

- Payment amounts were £200 per household where the oldest eligible person was aged 66 to 79, and £300 per household where at least one eligible person was aged 80 or over. In total, 82,035 payments of £200 were issued and 43,995 payments of £300 were issued by 30 June 2025 [**Pension Age Winter Heating Payment Table 2a**].

Payments by qualifying benefit

- For winter 2024/2025, 121,535 payments were issued for people eligible through Pension Credit, 3,025 payments were issued for those eligible through Universal Credit and 1,410 payments were issued for those eligible through Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit. A further 45 payments were issued for people eligible through Income Related Employment Support Allowance and 15 payments were issued to those eligible through Income Support [**Pension Age Winter Heating Payment Table 3**].

Background to Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment replaced Winter Fuel Payment for people living in Scotland in winter 2024. For winter 2024/2025 it provided support towards heating bills for people of State Pension age, who receive certain benefits. It was a tax-free payment, paid once a year during the winter.

Delivery in Scotland

Under the Scotland Act 2016, the Scottish Government has taken on responsibility for certain social security benefits previously administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Winter Fuel Payment eligibility ended in 2024 for people in Scotland following changes to legislation, this meant that for the winter of 2024/2025 eligible Scottish clients received Pension Age Winter Heating Payment in its place. For the 2024/2025 Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, eligibility rules and the qualifying week matched that of the 2024/2025 Winter Fuel Payment.

In winter 2024/2025, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment was administered and paid by the Department for Work and Pensions. From winter 2025/2026, the benefit will be delivered by Social Security Scotland, the executive agency of the Scottish Government responsible for administering devolved social security benefits in Scotland. This transitional period allows for the safe and orderly transfer of responsibility for the benefit. The payment remains automatic for most eligible clients.

Eligibility

To have been eligible for a Pension Age Winter Heating Payment in winter 2024/2025, a person must:

- Had been born before 23 September 1958.
- Had been ordinarily resident in Scotland, or in an eligible country abroad, during the qualifying week.
- Had been receiving at least one qualifying benefit on at least one day during the qualifying week.

The qualifying week for winter 2024 was Monday 16 September to Sunday 22 September 2024.

The qualifying benefits were:

- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit (only if the person received at least £26 from these benefits during the 2024 to 2025 tax year)

People living in a care home or an independent hospital would only have been eligible if they moved into that setting after 24 June 2024 and still met all other eligibility criteria.

A person was not eligible for the payment if, throughout the qualifying week, they:

- Had been in hospital receiving free treatment for more than 52 weeks.
- Were detained in custody under a sentence imposed by a court.
- Were subject to immigration control with no recourse to public funds.

Payment Amounts

The value of the payment depended on the person's age during the qualifying week, and whether they jointly claim their qualifying benefit with another person.

If the person did not jointly claim a qualifying benefit:

- Those aged 66 to 79 (born between 23 September 1944 and 22 September 1958) received £200.
- Those aged 80 or over (born before 23 September 1944) received £300.

If the person jointly claims a qualifying benefit with someone else:

- If both were aged 66 to 79, the household received a single payment of £200.
- If one was aged 66 to 79 and the other is under 66, the household received £200.
- If either person was aged 80 or over, the household received £300.

Payment Process

Most people in Scotland who were eligible for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment received it automatically. The Department for Work and Pensions began making payments from November 2024. Eligible individuals received letter in November or December confirming how much they would receive and which bank account it would be paid into.

About the data

How data is collected

These statistics for winter 2024/2025 use administrative data from the Department for Work and Pensions' Seasonal Payment System. A data cut was taken once payments were completed and an aggregated dataset was provided to Social Security Scotland to be used as the basis for the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment statistics.

While every effort is made to collect data to the highest quality, as with all administrative data it is dependent on the accuracy of information entered into the system. Checks are made throughout the process from collection of the data to producing the statistics, but some data entry or processing errors may filter through to the data used to produce the statistics.

Data quality

Payments

This publication presents data for Pension Age Winter Heating Benefit cases where a payment value had been recorded on the Department for Work and Pensions' Seasonal Payment System by 30 July 2025. A recorded payment value indicates that a client had been found to be eligible, and that an instruction had been sent to make a payment. This publication reports payments issued to 30 June. Any payments issued after that date are not included within this reporting.

Payments have only been included where it was identified to have been paid to a recipient in Scotland. Any payment that had a missing postcode and had not been identified as being a payment in Scotland will not be included within this reporting.

Age

For the 2024/2025 payment year, eligible clients must have reached State Pension age by 22 September 2024 and lived in a household that receives a qualifying benefit.

Rounding

Number of payments have been rounded to the nearest five payments for disclosure control. Value of payments have been rounded to the nearest £500 for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment for disclosure control. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest 1%. Data has been suppressed where it would disclose fewer than five payments.

Qualifying benefit

The qualifying benefit information presented in Table 3 is based on the qualifying benefit listed against each payment in the data file provided by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Related publications

Statistics published by Social Security Scotland can be found at:

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

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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Correspondence and enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

John Lever

Social Security Statistics

e-mail: MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: statistics.enquiries@gov.scot

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>

☐ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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