

Social Security Scotland Management Information

Winter Heating Benefits Management Information

Social Security Scotland began to issue winter 2025/2026 payments for Child Winter Heating Payment in October 2025, then began payments for Winter Heating Payment and Pension Age Winter Heating Payment in November 2025.

Management information indicates that, as of 24 January 2026, a combined total of over 1,508,000 payments had been issued for Child Winter Heating Payment, Winter Heating Payment and Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.

As of 24 January 2026, over 44,000 Child Winter Heating Payments had been issued and the total value of payments issued was over £11.2 million. The payment value for winter 2025/2026 is £255.80 and eligibility is based on clients being in receipt of a qualifying benefit on at least one day in the qualifying week Monday 15 September to Sunday 21 September 2025.

As of 24 January 2026, over 454,500 Winter Heating Payments had been issued and the total value of payments issued was over £27.1 million. The payment value for 2025/2026 is £59.75 and eligibility is based on clients being in receipt of a qualifying benefit on at least one day in the qualifying week Monday 3 November to Sunday 9 November 2025.

As of 24 January 2026, over 1,009,000 Pension Age Winter Heating Payments had been issued and the total value of payments issued was over £179.3 million. The payment value for winter 2025/2026 is between £101.70 and £305.10. In order to be eligible, clients must be 66 or over by the last day of the qualifying week Monday 15 September to Sunday 21 September 2025.

Over 99% of these Pension Age Winter Heating Payments had been issued by the end of December, with over 1,002,000 payments issued, and a total value of more than £178.0 million paid by 31 December 2025.

These figures are based on management information sourced from Social Security Scotland's case management system. A data cut was extracted on 27 January 2026 for internal reporting purposes. As these figures are based on management information, they have not yet been quality assured to the same standard as Official Statistics.

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A further management information release will be published on 4 March 2026. A release of Official Statistics on Child Winter Heating Payment, Winter Heating Payment and Pension Age Winter Heating Payment will be published on Tuesday 19 May 2026.

Background

Clients have the option to opt out of receiving Pension Age Winter Heating Payment. Management information shows that as at 24 January 2025, over 1700 clients had submitted a request to opt out of receiving the payment.

If a client's total income is over £35,000, and they have not opted out of receiving Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will take back the payment through the tax system in 2026/2027.

Social Security Scotland Statistics
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