

Scottish Welfare Fund

Q: What is the Scottish Welfare Fund?

The Scottish Government established the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) in 2013. Since then, over £181 million has been paid out from the SWF, helping over 316 thousand individual households. £76 million has gone to households with children – 42% of the total amount awarded.

We have committed to maintaining the SWF at £38 million in 2019-20. This contrasts with the UK Government imposing welfare reform measures which are expected to reduce annual benefit spending in Scotland by £3.7 billion by 2020/21.

We know the SWF is a vital lifeline for families and individuals across Scotland who may require emergency help with items such as food, power, heating and other essential living expenses as well as help to establish or maintain a home in the community with items such as a cooker, washing machine or bed. The fact that nearly a third of a million households in Scotland have required help from the SWF is a sad indictment of the UK Government's record on welfare cuts.

For further information on the Scottish Welfare Fund go to:

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-security/income-related-benefits/>