

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Easy Read Version

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Tell us what you think



What is this consultation about?



A **consultation** is when the Scottish Government asks people for their views before important changes are made.

The Scottish Government will introduce the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment in winter 2024 to help older people cover heating costs.



Pension Age Winter Heating Payment will be paid instead of the Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland.

In the rest of this document we will call it PAWHP for short.



We want to know what you think about the PAWHP and if there are any changes we could make to this benefit to make it better.

There are 21 questions.

If you do not know the answer to a question miss it out.

If you do not want to answer a question miss it out.



To fill in this Easy Read version:



- click on the box of the answer you agree with and a tick will appear.

If you change your mind you can click on it again to untick it.



- if you have more to say, type in the 'type your answer here' spaces.

The space will get bigger as you type.



- save your answers on this document and:

- email it to:
WinterBenefitsPolicy@gov.scot
- or print and post it to:






Social Security Policy Division
Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits Policy
Unit

150 Broomielaw
5 Atlantic Quay
Glasgow G2 8LU



- email or post your answers to us by 15 January 2024

PAWHP

	<p>Everyone in Scotland who gets the Winter Fuel Payment will get the same amount of money but it will be called PAWHP.</p> <p>The money will be paid by Social Security Scotland.</p> <p>£180 million will be spent on PAWHP in 2024/25 and it will support more than 1 million people.</p>						
	<p>Question 1a. Do you think the Winter Fuel Payment should be replaced with a payment that is the same?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="603 1041 1444 1294"> <tr> <td>✓ yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>✗ no</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>? I do not know</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	✓ yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	✗ no	<input type="checkbox"/>	? I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ yes	<input type="checkbox"/>						
✗ no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
? I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>						
<p>Question 1b. Please tell us more about your answer. Type it here:</p>							
	<p>Question 2a. Do you think this is a good way for the Scottish Government to give financial support to older people?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="603 1780 1444 2038"> <tr> <td>✓ yes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>✗ no</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>? I do not know</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	✓ yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	✗ no	<input type="checkbox"/>	? I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ yes	<input type="checkbox"/>						
✗ no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
? I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>						






Question 2b. Please tell us more about your answer.

Type it here:













Question 2c. Is there anything else you want to tell us about how this benefit could change in the future so it gives the best support?

Type it here:

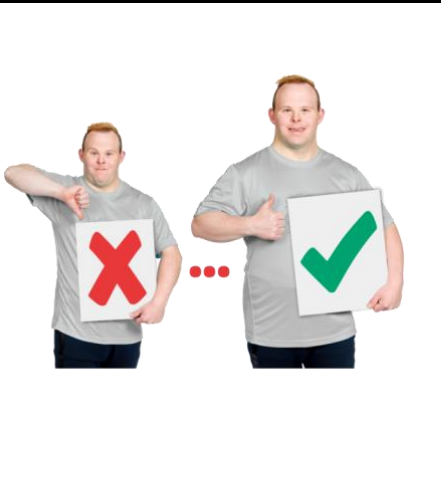
What the benefit will be called

	<p>We plan to call this new benefit Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, so it is easier for people to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what the payment is for• who can get the payment
	<p>Question 3a. Do you think the replacement for Winter Fuel Payment in Scotland should be called Pension Age Winter Heating Payment' (PAWHP)?</p>
	<p> yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p> no <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p> I do not know <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Question 3b. Please tell us more about your answer.</p> <p>Type it here:</p>	

When the payment will happen

	<p>We know it is important for people to get money for energy costs early in the winter.</p> <p>At the moment WFP is paid to eligible people in November or December.</p> <p>Eligible means you have the right to get something.</p>						
	<p>We know that some people would like to get their payments earlier but we need more information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how many people would find it helpful? • would it be expensive to just give early payments to the people who want them? • should we give everyone early payments? <p>We plan to make payments in November or December but would like to know what you think about this.</p>						
	<p>Question 4a. Do you think payments should still be made to people in November or December each year?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="611 1780 1332 1859">  yes </td> <td data-bbox="1332 1780 1444 1859"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="611 1859 1332 1937">  no </td> <td data-bbox="1332 1859 1444 1937"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="611 1937 1332 2027">  I do not know </td> <td data-bbox="1332 1937 1444 2027"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> </table>	 yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	 no	<input type="checkbox"/>	 I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>
 yes	<input type="checkbox"/>						
 no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
 I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>						

Question 4b. Please tell us more about your answer.
Type it here:



Question 5. How could we make the way we pay this benefit better for people who are not on the gas grid because they live:

- in the countryside, far from a town or city
- on an island

Type your answer here:

Eligibility criteria and how much the payment will be



We do not plan to change the **eligibility criteria** for PAWHP.

Eligibility criteria are the rules that help us decide who can get the payment.

People who get Winter Fuel Payment just now because they have reached the **state pension** age will automatically get a PAWHP payment.

The **state pension** is money you get from the Government every month when you reach the age of 66.



We plan to keep the same payments which means:

- a household where the oldest person is under 80 will get £200
- a household with a person aged 80 or over will get £300

The amount of money is different if a person is in residential care.

Residential care



Residential care means someone lives in a place where staff care for them 24 hours a day, for example in a care home.

People who live in residential care share the accommodation with other people:

- who may get the payment
- who pay a share of heating costs

Because of this they get half the full amount of WFP:

- £100 if they are aged 66 to 79
- or £150 if they are aged 80 or over



People living in residential care who get certain benefits do not get a heating payment.

This is because they get funding from the local council for their care and living costs which includes heating costs.



Question 6a. Do you think we should use the state pension age to decide when someone can get the PAWHP?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 6b. Please tell us more about your answer.
Type it here:



Question 7a. Do you think that the eligibility criteria for the PAWHP is clear?




<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 7b. Please tell us more about your answer.

Type your answer here:



Question 8a. Do you think we should keep the payments the same?




- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  I do not know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Question 8b. Please tell us more about your answer.

Type it here:



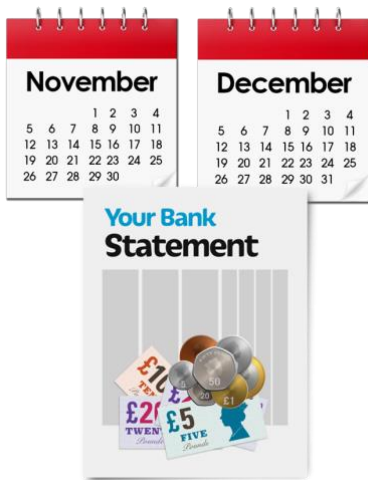
Question 9a: Do you think that people in residential care should get half the amount of PAWHP?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
|  yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  no | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  I do not know | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Question 9c: Please tell us more about your answer.

Type it here:

Getting the payment



We plan to pay people PAWHP once a year as a cash payment into their bank account.

People will not need to claim the benefit.

It will be paid automatically if:

- they get a DWP benefit, including their state pension
- they used to get the WFP

Opting-out




To **opt-out** means deciding not to do something.

Some people may not need extra support with heating costs because they have enough money.


DWP give people an option to opt-out of receiving WFP if they do not want to get it, or they suggest people can donate it to a charity.

We plan to do the same for PAWHP.


A person will stay opted out until they tell Social Security Scotland that they want their payment to start again.

	Question 10a. Do you think that PAWHP should only be given to people as a cash payment?	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not agree	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 10b. Please tell us more about your answer.
Type it here:

	Question 11a. Do you think that PAWHP should be 1 payment each winter?	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 11b. Please tell us more about your answer.
Type it here:

	Question 12a. Do you like the way that people can opt-out of getting PAWHP?	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 12b. Please tell us more about your answer.

Type it here:

Qualifying week



Eligible people are paid automatically if they meet the qualifying criteria in the qualifying week.

The qualifying week is in September.

Late September is the latest possible date to decide who can get the benefit and get their money in time.



Question 13a. Do you think the qualifying week should still be in September?

yes

no

I do not know













Question 13b. Please tell us more about your answer.

Type it here:


Question 13c. If you did not agree, please tell us when you think the qualifying week for PAWHP should be.

Type your answer here:

Re-determination and appeals

	<p>A person can ask for a decision made by Social Security Scotland to be looked at again if they think it is not right.</p> <p>This is called a re-determination.</p>						
 	<p>We are planning that when a person has been given a decision, they have 31 days to ask for a re-determination.</p> <p>If the request is refused, the person has 31 days to appeal to a group called a tribunal.</p> <p>We think that Social Security Scotland should have 56 days to make the new decision.</p> <p>If there is no decision in those 56 days, the person has a right to appeal to a group called a tribunal.</p>						
	<p>Question 14a. Do you think a person should have 31 days to ask for a re-determination?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="603 1769 1444 2022"> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1769 1332 1848">  yes </td> <td data-bbox="1332 1769 1444 1848"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1848 1332 1937">  no </td> <td data-bbox="1332 1848 1444 1937"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1937 1332 2022">  I do not know </td> <td data-bbox="1332 1937 1444 2022"> <input type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> </table>	 yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	 no	<input type="checkbox"/>	 I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>
 yes	<input type="checkbox"/>						
 no	<input type="checkbox"/>						
 I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>						


Question 14b. Please tell us more about your answer.
Type it here:

	Question 15a. Do you think that Social Security Scotland should have 56 working days to look at a re-determination of PAWHP.	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 15b. Please tell us more about your answer.
Type it here:

Question 16. Can you tell us about any other things we might not have thought about with these changes?
Type your answer here:

Effects on different groups of people and businesses

	<p>We want PAWHP to work for everyone.</p> <p>We will think about how changes could affect people and groups differently because of their protected characteristics.</p> <p>Find out about protected characteristics in this Easy Read document.</p>
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Question 17. Please tell us any information you wish to share on how PAWHP will affect groups who share protected characteristics.

Type your answer here:



Question 18. Please tell us any information you wish to share about how PAWHP might affect businesses in Scotland.

Type your answer here:



We need to make sure PAWHP works for people wherever they live.

Question 19. Please tell us any information you wish to share about how PAWHP might affect the people who live on Scottish islands.

Type your answer here:



We need to think about how PAWHP can help make things fairer by helping people:

- on lower incomes
- who have other challenges because of their background, or where they live

Question 20. Please tell us any information you want us to know about how PAWHP could make life fairer.

Type it here:

Question 21. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about PAWHP please type it here:



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