
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2000 No. 729

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2000

Made - - - - *13th March 2000*
Laid before Parliament *13th March 2000*
Coming into force - - *3rd April 2000*

The Secretary of State for Social Security, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 138(2) and (4) and 175(1), (3) and (4) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992^{M1} and sections 5(1)(a) and (i), and 189(1) and (4) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992^{M2} and section 16(1) and section 79(1) and (4) of, and paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to, the Social Security Act 1998^{M3} and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, after agreement by the Social Security Advisory Committee that proposals in respect of these Regulations should not be referred to it^{M4}, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Instrument applied (with modifications) (1.10.2010) by [The Employment and Support Allowance \(Transitional Provisions, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit\) \(Existing Awards\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1907\)](#), [reg. 16\(2\)\(e\)\(iii\)\(3\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1992 c. 4; section 138(4) is an interpretation provision and is cited because of the meaning ascribed to the word “prescribed”. Section 175(1) was amended by the [Transfer of Functions Act 1999 \(c. 11\)](#), [Schedule 8](#), paragraph 41.
- M2** 1992 c. 5.
- M3** 1998 c. 14.
- M4** See section 173(1)(b) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2000 and shall come into force on 3rd April 2000.

(2) In these Regulations—

[^{F1}“care home” in England ^{F2}... has the meaning assigned to it by section 3 of the Care Standards Act 2000, [^{F3}in Wales, means a care home service within the meaning of Part 1 of the Regulation

and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 which is provided wholly or mainly to persons aged 18 or over] and in Scotland means a care home service as defined by [F4 paragraph 2 of schedule 12 to the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010];]

[F5“couple” means—

- (a) two people who are married to, or civil partners of, each other and are members of the same household; or
- (b) two people who are not married to, or civil partners of, each other but are living together [F6as if they were a married couple or civil partners];]

M5[F7“free in-patient treatment” shall be construed in accordance with regulation [F82(4) and (5) of the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations 2005];

[F9“income-related employment and support allowance” means an income-related allowance under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 (employment and support allowance);]

F10
...

[F11“independent hospital”—

- (a) in England, means a hospital as defined by section 275 of the National Health Service Act 2006 that is not a health service hospital as defined by that section;
- (b) in Wales, has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000; and
- (c) in Scotland, means an independent healthcare service as defined in [F12section 10F(1)(a) and (b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978];]

[F13“qualifying age for state pension credit” means—

- (a) in the case of a woman, pensionable age; or
- (b) in the case of a man, the age which is pensionable age in the case of a woman born on the same day as the man;]

“qualifying week” means in respect of any year the week beginning on the third Monday in the September of that year;

F14
...

“partner” means a member of—

- (a) [F15a couple]; or
- (b) a polygamous marriage;

F14
...

[F16“state pension credit” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1 of the State Pension Credit Act 2002;]

F17
...

[F18(3) F19... in these Regulations a person—

- (a) is in residential care if, disregarding any period of temporary absence, he resides in—
 - (i) [F20a care home;]
 - (ii) [F20an independent hospital; or]
 - (iv) accommodation provided under section 3(1) of the Polish Resettlement Act 1947 M6 (provision by the Secretary of State of accommodation in camps),

throughout the qualifying week and the period of 12 weeks immediately before the qualifying week;

- (b) lives with another person if—
 - (i) disregarding any period of temporary absence, they share accommodation as their mutual home; and
 - (ii) they are not in residential care.]

^{F21}(3A)

- (4) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference—
 - (a) to a numbered regulation is to the regulation in these Regulations bearing that number; and
 - (b) in a regulation to a numbered paragraph is to the paragraph in that regulation bearing that number.]

F1	Words in reg. 1(2) inserted (24.10.2005) by The Social Security (Care Homes and Independent Hospitals) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2687) , regs. 1, 8(2)(a)(ii)
F2	Words in reg. 1(2) omitted (2.4.2018) by virtue of The Social Security and Child Support (Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016) (Consequential Provision) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/228) , regs. 1, 6(2)(a)
F3	Words in reg. 1(2) inserted (2.4.2018) by The Social Security and Child Support (Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016) (Consequential Provision) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/228) , regs. 1, 6(2)(b)
F4	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (28.10.2011) by The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Modifications of Enactments) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/2581) , art. 1(2)(b), Sch. 2 para. 29(a)
F5	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (13.3.2014) by The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/107) , art. 1(2), Sch. 1 para. 28
F6	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (16.12.2014) (EW) (2.12.2019)(S) by The Civil Partnership (Opposite-sex Couples) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1458) , reg. 1(2), Sch. 3 para. 58 ; S.I. 2014/3229, art. 1(2), Sch. 6 para. 19
F7	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (16.12.2014) by The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 and Civil Partnership Act 2004 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/3229) , art. 1(2), Sch. 6 para. 19
F8	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (10.4.2006) by The Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3360) , regs. 1(a), 7
F9	Words in reg. 1(2) inserted (27.10.2008) by The Employment and Support Allowance (Consequential Provisions) (No. 2) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1554) , regs. 1(2)(b), 7(2)
F10	Words in reg. 1(2) omitted (23.2.2015) by virtue of The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/67) , regs. 1, 4(a)
F11	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (1.10.2010) by The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Miscellaneous Consequential Amendments) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1881) , arts. 1(1), 10
F12	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (28.10.2011) by The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Modifications of Enactments) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/2581) , art. 1(2)(b), Sch. 2 para. 29(b)
F13	Words in reg. 1(2) inserted (6.4.2010) by The Social Security (Equalisation of State Pension Age) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/1488) , regs. 1, 19(2)
F14	Words in reg. 1(2) omitted (24.10.2005) by virtue of The Social Security (Care Homes and Independent Hospitals) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/2687) , regs. 1, 8(2)(a)(i)
F15	Words in reg. 1(2) substituted (5.12.2005) by The Civil Partnership (Pensions, Social Security and Child Support) (Consequential, etc. Provisions) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/2877) , art. 1, Sch. 3 para. 32(b) (with art. 3)
F16	Words in reg. 1 inserted (20.9.2004) by The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/2154) , regs. 1, 2(a)

- F17** Words in reg. 1(2) omitted (13.11.2000) by virtue of [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2000 \(S.I. 2000/2864\)](#), regs. 1, **2(a)(i)**
- F18** Reg. 1(3)(3A) substituted (2.11.2001) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2001 \(S.I. 2001/3375\)](#), regs. 1, **2(2)**
- F19** Words in reg. 1(3) omitted (24.10.2005) by virtue of [The Social Security \(Care Homes and Independent Hospitals\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2687\)](#), regs. 1, **8(2)(b)(i)**
- F20** Reg. 1(3)(a)(i)(ii) substituted for (24.10.2005) by [The Social Security \(Care Homes and Independent Hospitals\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2687\)](#), regs. 1, **8(2)(b)(ii)**
- F21** Reg. 1(3A) omitted (24.10.2005) by virtue of [The Social Security \(Care Homes and Independent Hospitals\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2687\)](#), regs. 1, **8(2)(c)**

Marginal Citations

- M5** [S.I. 1975/555](#); regulation 2(2) was substituted by [S.I. 1992/2595](#).
- M6** [1947 c. 19](#); section 3(1) was amended by the [Ministry of Social Security Act 1966 \(c. 20\)](#), [section 39\(1\)](#) and [Schedule 6, paragraph 3\(1\)](#) and the [Social Security Act 1980 \(c. 30\)](#), [section 20\(1\)](#) and [Schedule 4, paragraph 1\(1\)\(a\)](#).

Social fund winter fuel payments

^{F22}2.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) [^{F23}to (4)] and regulation 3 of these Regulations, and regulation 36(2) of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1987, the Secretary of State shall pay to a person who—

- (a) [^{F24}in respect of any day falling within the qualifying week is—
- (i) ordinarily resident in Great Britain; or
- (ii) habitually resident in [^{F25}any of the countries listed in the Schedule to these Regulations]]; and
- (b) [^{F26}in or before the qualifying week has attained the qualifying age for state pension credit,] a winter fuel payment of—
- (i) £200 unless he is in residential care or head (ii)(aa) applies; or
- (ii) £100 if [^{F27}state pension credit][^{F28}, an income-based jobseeker's allowance or an income-related employment and support allowance] has not been, nor falls to be, paid to him in respect of the qualifying week and he is—
- (aa) in that week living with a person to whom a payment under these Regulations has been, or falls to be, made in respect of the winter following the qualifying week; or
- (bb) in residential care.
- (2) Where such a person has attained the age of 80 in or before the qualifying week—
- (a) in paragraph (1)(i), for the sum of £200 there shall be substituted the sum of £300; and
- (b) [^{F29}in paragraph (1)(ii), for the sum of £100 there shall be substituted the sum of £200, except that—
- (i) where he is in that week living with a person to whom a payment under these Regulations has been, or falls to be, made in respect of the winter following that week who has also attained the age of 80 in or before that week, or
- (ii) where he is in residential care,
- there shall be substituted the sum of £150.]

(3) Where such a person has not attained the age of 80 in or before the qualifying week but he is a partner of and living with a person who has done so, in paragraph (1)(i) for the sum of £200 there shall be substituted the sum of £300.]

[^{F30}(4) A person does not qualify for a winter fuel payment by virtue of falling within paragraph [^{F31}(1)(a)(ii)] above unless—

[^{F32}(a) they are a person who is covered by—

- (i) Title III of Part 2 of the withdrawal agreement as set out at Article 30 of that agreement;
- (ii) Title III of Part 2 of the EEA EFTA separation agreement as set out at Article 29 of that agreement;
- (iii) Part Three of the Swiss citizens' rights agreement as set out at Article 25 of that agreement; or
- (iv) the Convention on Social Security between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland signed at Dublin on 1st February 2019 (as modified from time to time in accordance with any provision of it) as set out in Article 2 of that Convention; and]

(b) they are able to demonstrate a genuine and sufficient link to the United Kingdom social security system.]

[^{F33}(5) In this regulation “withdrawal agreement”, “EEA EFTA separation agreement” and “Swiss citizens' rights agreement” have the same meanings as in section 39(1) of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020.]

- F22** Reg. 2 substituted (1.9.2003) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/1737\)](#), regs. 1, **2**
- F23** Words in reg. 2(1) substituted (16.9.2013) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1509\)](#), regs. 1, **2(2)(a)(i)**
- F24** Reg. 2(1)(a) substituted (16.9.2013) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1509\)](#), regs. 1, **2(2)(a)(ii)**
- F25** Words in reg. 2(1)(a)(ii) substituted (21.9.2015) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/3270\)](#), regs. 1, **2(2)**
- F26** Reg. 2(1)(b) substituted (6.4.2010) by [The Social Security \(Equalisation of State Pension Age\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1488\)](#), regs. 1, **20(2)**
- F27** Words in reg. 2(1)(ii) substituted (20.9.2004) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2004 \(S.I. 2004/2154\)](#), regs. 1, **2(b)**
- F28** Words in reg. 2(1)(b)(ii) substituted (27.10.2008) by [The Employment and Support Allowance \(Consequential Provisions\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1554\)](#), regs. 1(2)(b), **7(3)**
- F29** Reg. 2(2)(b) substituted (3.9.2003) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/2192\)](#), regs. 1, **2**
- F30** Reg. 2(4) added (16.9.2013) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1509\)](#), regs. 1, **2(2)(b)**
- F31** Word in reg. 2(4) substituted (23.2.2015) by [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2015 \(S.I. 2015/67\)](#), regs. 1, **4(b)**
- F32** Reg. 2(4)(a) substituted (20.9.2021) by [The Social Security \(Reciprocal Agreements\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/811\)](#), regs. 1(3), **2(2)(a)**
- F33** Reg. 2(5) inserted (20.9.2021) by [The Social Security \(Reciprocal Agreements\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/811\)](#), regs. 1(3), **2(2)(b)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Reg. 2 applied (with modifications) (15.9.2008) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Temporary Increase\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1778\)](#), regs. 1, 2
- C3** Reg. 2 applied (with modifications) (21.9.2009) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Temporary Increase\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1489\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(1)**
- C4** Reg. 2 applied (with modifications) (20.9.2010) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Temporary Increase\) Regulations 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1161\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2**
- C5** Reg. 2 applied (with modifications) (18.9.2023) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Temporary Increase\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/549\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2**

Persons not entitled to a social fund winter fuel payment

3.—(1) Regulation 2 shall not apply in respect of a person who—

(a) is [^{F34}throughout the qualifying week] —

[^{F35}(i) a partner of, and living with, a person who attained the qualifying age for state pension credit in or before the qualifying week and to whom state pension credit, an income-based jobseeker's allowance or an income-related employment and support allowance has been, or falls to be, paid in respect of the qualifying week;]

(ii) receiving free in-patient treatment and has been receiving free in-patient treatment for more than 52 weeks; ^{F36} ...

(iii) detained in custody under a sentence imposed by a court; or

[^{F37}(iv) in residential care and is a person to whom state pension credit, an income-based jobseeker's allowance or an income-related employment and support allowance has been, or falls to be, paid in respect of the qualifying week; or]

(b) subject to paragraph (2), has not made a claim for a winter fuel payment [^{F38}on or before the 31st March] following the qualifying week in respect of the winter following that week.

(2) Paragraph (1)(b) shall not apply where—

(a) a payment has been made by virtue of regulation 4(1) [^{F39}on or before the 31st March] following the qualifying week in respect of the winter following that week; or

(b) regulation 4(2) applies.

[^{F40}(3) No person is entitled to a winter fuel payment for the winter of 1997 to 1998, 1998 to 1999 or 1999 to 2000 unless they have made a claim for such a payment on or before 31st March 2014.]

F34 Words in reg. 3(1)(a) substituted (1.4.2012) by [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/757\)](#), regs. 1(4), **18(2)**

F35 Reg. 3(1)(a)(i) substituted (6.4.2010) by [The Social Security \(Equalisation of State Pension Age\) Regulations 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1488\)](#), regs. 1, **21(2)**

F36 Word in reg. 3(1)(a)(ii) omitted (23.2.2015) by virtue of [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2015 \(S.I. 2015/67\)](#), regs. 1, **4(c)**

F37 Reg. 3(1)(a)(iv) inserted (23.2.2015) by [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2015 \(S.I. 2015/67\)](#), regs. 1, **4(c)**

F38 Words in reg. 3(1)(b) substituted (1.4.2012) by [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/757\)](#), regs. 1(4), **18(3)**

F39 Words in reg. 3(2)(a) substituted (1.4.2012) by [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/757\)](#), regs. 1(4), **18(3)**

F40 Reg. 3(3) added (16.9.2013) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1509\)](#), regs. 1, **2(3)**

Making a winter fuel payment without a claim

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of State may [^{F41}on or before the 31st March] of the year following the year in which the qualifying week falls make a winter fuel payment under regulation 2 in respect of the preceding winter to a person who (disregarding regulation 3(b)) appears from official records held by the Secretary of State to be entitled to a payment under that regulation.

(2) Where a person becomes entitled to income support^{F42}, state pension credit or an income-related employment and support allowance] in respect of the qualifying week by virtue of a decision made after that week that section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (exclusions) ceases to apply to him the Secretary of State shall make a winter fuel payment to that person under regulation 2 in respect of the winter following the qualifying week.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), for the purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) official records held by the Secretary of State as to a person's circumstances shall be sufficient evidence thereof for the purpose of deciding his entitlement to a winter fuel payment and its amount.

(4) Paragraph (3) shall not apply so as to exclude the revision of a decision under section 9 of the Social Security Act 1998 (revision of decisions) or the supersession of a decision under section 10^{M7} of that Act (decisions superseding earlier decisions) or the consideration of fresh evidence in connection with the revision or supersession of a decision.

F41 Words in reg. 4(1) substituted (1.4.2012) by [The Social Security \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/757\)](#), regs. 1(4), **18(3)**

F42 Words in reg. 4(2) substituted (27.10.2008) by [The Employment and Support Allowance \(Consequential Provisions\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1554\)](#), regs. 1(2)(b), **7(5)**

Marginal Citations

M7 Section 10 was amended by paragraph 23 of Schedule 7 to the [Social Security Contributions \(Transfer of Functions, etc.\) Act 1999 \(c. 2\)](#).

Revocations

5. The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 1998^{M8}, the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Amendment Regulations 1998^{M9} and the Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Amendment Regulations 1999^{M10} are hereby revoked.

Marginal Citations

M8 [S.I. 1998/19](#).

M9 [S.I. 1998/1910](#).

M10 [S.I. 1999/1880](#).

Signed by Authority of the Secretary of State for Social Security.

Angela Eagle
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Social Security

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2000. (See end of Document for details)

[^{F43}SCHEDULE

Regulation 2

F43 Sch. inserted (21.9.2015) by [The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/3270\)](#), regs. 1, **2(3)**

Countries

Republic of Austria
Kingdom of Belgium
Republic of Bulgaria
Republic of Croatia
Czech Republic
Kingdom of Denmark
Republic of Estonia
Republic of Finland
Federal Republic of Germany
Republic of Hungary
Republic of Iceland
Republic of Ireland
Republic of Italy
Republic of Latvia
Principality of Liechtenstein
Republic of Lithuania
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Kingdom of the Netherlands
Kingdom of Norway
Republic of Poland
Republic of Romania
Slovak Republic
Republic of Slovenia
Kingdom of Sweden
Swiss Confederation.]

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations provide for winter fuel payments to be made out of the social fund to persons who, in the third week of September in any year—

- a) are aged 60 or over;
- b) are ordinarily resident in Great Britain;
- c) satisfy the criteria in regulation 2; and
- d) are not excluded by regulation 3.

Regulation 4 provides for winter fuel payments to be made without the need for a claim to persons—

a) whose entitlement thereto can be established from official records held by the Secretary of State; and

b) who are entitled to income support in the third week in September in a year by virtue of a decision made after that week that they are refugees.

It further provides that decisions as to entitlement which are made without a claim may be made on the basis of official records but not so as to exclude the consideration of other evidence on a revision or supersession of that decision under the Social Security Act 1998.

Regulation 5 revokes legislation which has hitherto provided for social fund winter fuel payments. These Regulations do not impose a charge on businesses.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2000.