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1 February 2019

Jamie Stone MP  
House of Commons

Dear Jamie

I am writing to advise you of the outcome of the Cold Weather Payments scheme annual review.

The scheme is reviewed after the end of each winter season to ensure that the weather station network remains viable and representative. Expert advice is sought from the Met Office and changes made where appropriate before the start of the next winter period. As part of this, we consider representations made during the previous winter about the suitability of individual weather stations and the links with postcode districts.

Last year we were asked if further consideration could be given as to whether the Cold Weather Payment weather station at Kinloss was the most appropriate for the IV15, postcode. The Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre reviewed the data for the IV7, IV15, IV16 postcodes and advised that:

The main population centre for IV15 is the town of Dingwall with a winter mean temperature in the range 2.6 to 3.1 °C. The postcode also contains some higher elevation land to the north and west of Dingwall. The postcodes adjacent to the coast and estuaries are linked to the coastal climate station at Kinloss (3.8 °C) and the more inland postcodes are linked to the higher elevation site at Loch Glascarnoch (2.0 °C).

In his findings, the Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre recommended that the current postcode district links to the postcodes of IV7, IV15 and IV16 would be better represented by linking

to the weather station at Loch Glascarnoch which is more representative of the higher elevation and cooler postcodes. The Loch Glascarnoch weather station has forecast an average temperature of 0 degrees or below for 16/01/2019-22/01/2019.

If you have any further questions, please contact my officials at [socialfundstrategy.singlepointofcontact@dwpgsi.gov.uk](mailto:socialfundstrategy.singlepointofcontact@dwpgsi.gov.uk)

I will place a copy of this letter in the House Library.



**Justin Tomlinson MP**

Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance