



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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1 February 2019

Rt Hon Mark Francois MP
House of Commons

Dear Mark

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.

In its advice this year, the Met Office notified my department that the station located at Gravesend would be replaced by the weather station at Shoeburyness. As your parliamentary constituency contains the postcodes SS4 - 6, SS9, SS11 – 12 and SS14, I am writing to you to notify you of the change.

In making its recommendations, the Met Office examined the Geographic Information System database showing postcode areas, weather stations, topography, built-up areas and 1 km-gridded winter mean air temperature for 1981-2010 (i.e. the latest 30-year measurement of winter mean temperature used to calculate various weather parameters.)

If you have any further questions, please contact my officials at socialfundstrategy.singlepointofcontact@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Justin', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish underneath.

Justin Tomlinson MP

Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance