



Department
for Work &
Pensions

0207 340 4000

www.dwp.gov.uk

ministers@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

4 February 2019

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael
House of Commons

Dear Alistair

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 to whether the Cold Weather Payment weather station at Lerwick was the most appropriate for the ZE1 postcode. The Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre reviewed the data for the ZE1 postcode and advised that:

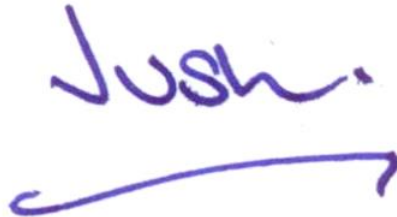
The postcode ZE1 has a range of winter mean temperatures from 3.9 to 4.3 °C in Lerwick, 4.3 to 4.5 °C in Scalloway. The coldest populated area is Hoo Fields at 3.8 °C. The weather station at Lerwick is in ZE1 with a winter mean temperature of 3.9 °C. The only alternative site is Baltasound on the northern edge of Shetland with a mean temperature of 4.1 °C.

In his findings, the Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre recommended that based on the location and climate of the main population centres Lerwick remains the most suitable Cold Weather Payment station for Shetland postcodes.

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 blue ink that reads "Justin" with a flourish underneath.

Justin Tomlinson
Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance