



Department
for Work &
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4 February 2019

Hugh Gaffney MP
House of Commons

Dear Hugh

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 current Cold Weather Payment weather stations are the most appropriate for the, ML5, ML6, G68, postcodes. The Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre reviewed the data for the ML5, ML6, G68 postcodes and advised that:

The town of Coatbridge in ML5 has a winter mean temperature in the range 3.4 to 3.7 °C and is linked to the weather station at Bishopton with a winter mean temperature of 3.8 °C. The town of Airdrie in ML6 is slightly cooler with winter mean temperatures in range 3.0 to 3.5 °C because of its slightly higher elevation.

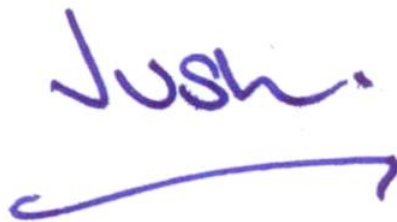
Similarly, G68, Cumbernauld area with a winter mean temperature in the range 2.8 to 3.4 °C. ML6 and G68 are linked to the weather station at Salsburgh with a winter mean climate of 2.8 °C.

In his findings, the Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre recommended that even though the postcodes are adjacent and linked to different weather stations in the scheme, due to the climatological difference between the two main population centres of these postcodes the current stations should continue to be used by the Cold Weather Payments scheme.

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



Justin Tomlinson
Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance