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4 February 2019

Peter Grant MP  
House of Commons

Dear Peter

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 Leuchars was the most appropriate for the KY6-KY8, postcodes. The Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre reviewed the data for KY6-KY8 postcodes and advised that:

Postcode areas KY6-KY8 are linked to the weather station at Leuchars, which has a winter mean temperature of 3.7 °C based on the 30-year climatological reference period 1981- 2010. The town of Glenrothes is the main urban centre in these postcodes and has a winter mean temperature in the range 3.3 to 3.7 °C. The region overall has mean temperatures ranging from 4.2 °C near the coast in Leven (KY8) to 2.1 °C in the outlying village of Glasslie (KY6).

However, the majority of the population reside in the towns of Glenrothes, Leven and Buckhaven. The nearest alternative site would

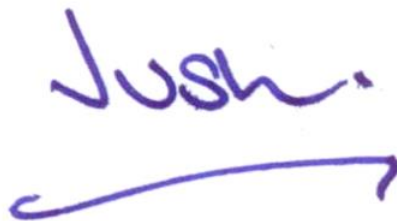
be Strathallan to the North West with a mean winter temperature of 3.2 °C.

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 for KY6-8, Leuchars remains the most suitable Cold Weather Payment station for these postcodes.

If you have any further questions, please contact my officials at [socialfundstrategy.singlepointofcontact@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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 'Jush.', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish underneath.

**Justin Tomlinson**

Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance