Dear Philip

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 Coleshill Cold Weather Payment weather station was the most appropriate for the, DY14 postcode. The Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre reviewed the data for the DY14 postcode and advised that:

The DY14 postcode is relatively rural area. Most of the population are located in the vicinity of Cleobury Mortimer with winter mean temperature of 3.8 to 4.0 °C, Poundbank and Callow hill with mean temperatures 3.7 to 4.0 °C. DY14 is linked to Coleshill, 55km to the east, with a winter mean temperature of 4.3 °C. The alternative station is Hereford-Credenhill 39km to the south west with a temperature of 4.4 °C.
As other potential climate stations in the region have similar climates, the Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre recommended that Coleshill remains the most suitable Cold Weather Payment weather station for this postcode.

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