



Department
for Work &
Pensions

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4 February 2019

Susan Jones MP
House of Commons

Dear Susan

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 Hawarden Airport was the most appropriate for the LL13 postcode. The Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre reviewed the data for the Hawarden Airport postcodes and advised that:

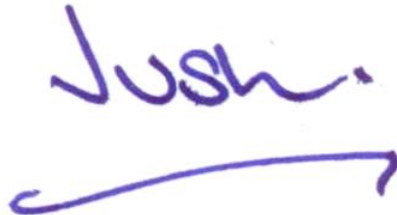
The postcode LL13 has winter mean temperatures of 4.8 to 5.0 °C in Wrexham, down to 4.6 in more rural areas. The postcode is linked to the weather station at Hawarden Airport with a comparable winter mean temperature of 4.8 °C. An alternative site at Shawbury (4.1 °C) is considerably cooler than the LL13 postcode.

In his findings, the Head of the Met Office National Climate Information Centre recommended that Hawarden Airport 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

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

Justin Tomlinson
Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance