Craig Whittaker MP
House of Commons

October 2019

Dear Craig,

I am writing to you to advise you of the outcome of the annual review of the Cold Weather Payments scheme.

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 winter, you asked if further consideration could be given as to whether Sheffield and Bingley weather stations are the most appropriate weather station for HD3 and HD6.

In its advice, the Met Office stated:

"The postcode district HD6 encompasses the urban area of Brighouse with a winter mean temperature of 4.0 to 4.4 °C and is linked to the weather station at Sheffield with a winter mean temperature of 4.2 °C and representative of more urban areas. The postcode HD3 spans 4.0 °C in the urban fringe, down to 3.2 °C in the higher and more rural regions. These postcodes are therefore..."
linked to the climate station at Bingley with a winter mean temperature of 3.1 °C.

In making its recommendation, the Met Office examined the Geographic Information System database showing postcode areas, weather stations, topography, built-up areas and 1km-gridded winter mean air temperature for 1981-2010 (i.e. the latest 30 year measurement of winter mean temperature used to calculate various weather parameters).

In view of the Met Office advice, the postcodes linked to these weather stations will remain the same for winter 2019/20.

I have asked for a copy of this letter to be deposited in the house library. If you have any further questions, please contact my officials at SOCIALFUNDSTRATEGY.SINGLEPOINTOFCONTACT@DWP.GOV.UK

I appreciate this is not the response that you were hoping for.

Best Wishes,

Will Quince MP
Minister for Welfare Delivery