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. We have looked again to whether Bishopston weather station is the most appropriate weather station for the ML4 - ML5, G67 - G68 postcodes.

In its advice, the Met Office stated:

‘There have been no changes to the available stations or reference criteria in this region.

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 climate station at Bishopston 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. In similar fashion, G68, Cumbernauld area with a winter mean temperature in the range 2.8 to 3.4 °C. ML6 and G68 are linked to the climate station at Salsburgh with a winter mean climate of 2.8 °C. The postcodes are adjacent and linked to different weather
stations in the scheme, however due to the climatological difference between the two main population centres of these postcodes."

The Met Office made the recommendation that the current postcode district links to Bishopton weather station should be maintained for winter 2019/20. 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 the weather station at Bishopton 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.GSI.GOV.UK

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

Best Wishes

[Signature]

Will Quince MP

Minister for Welfare Delivery