Dear Hywel,

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 Mona weather station was the most appropriate weather station for postcodes LL33, and LL54 -LL61.

In its advice, the Met Office stated: "There have been no changes to the available stations or reference criteria in this region.

LL33 and LL54 -LL61 postcodes border the Menai Strait and are linked to the station at Mona, Anglesey (winter mean temperature 5.5 °C). Although some of these postcodes on the mainland, such as LL55 and LL57 extend inland and to higher and colder regions of Snowdonia, the majority of the populations of these postcode districts are located in the low-lying coastal areas that have very similar climate to Mona. The cold weather payment service cannot subdivide postcode regions. Alternative cold weather payment stations at Capel Curig (3.3 °C) would not be representative of the climate for most of the
population of the LL postcodes described. Other stations are geographically further away and therefore not suitable, such as Rhyl.

In making its recommendations, 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 Mona 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

Will Quince MP

Minister for Welfare Delivery