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 asked if further consideration could be given as to whether Leuchars weather station was the most appropriate weather station for the KY6 - KY8 postcodes.

In its advice, the Met Office stated:

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

Postcode areas KY6-KY8 are linked to the climate station at Leuchars, which has a winter mean temperature of 3.7 °C based on the 30-year climatological reference period 1981-2010. The town of Glenrothes is the main urban centre in these postcodes and has a winter mean temperature in the range 3.3 to 3.7°C. The region overall has mean temperatures ranging from 4.2 °C near
the coast in Leven (KY8) to 2.1 °C in the outlying village of Glasslie (KY6). The majority of the population, however, reside in the towns of Glenrothes, Leven and Buckhaven. The nearest alternative site would be Strathallan to the north west with a mean winter temperature of 3.2 °C. Based on the location and climate of the main population centres for KY6-8, Leuchars remains the most suitable site for these postcodes.

The Met Office therefore recommended that the current postcode district links to the weather station at Leuchars 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 Leuchars 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