Department for Work & Pensions

Minister for Welfare Delivery
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LONDON
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Stuart Andrew MP
House of Commons

24 October 2019

Dear Stuart,

I am writing to you to advise you that as a result of the annual review of the Cold Weather Payments scheme, some of the postcodes in your constituency have been linked to a new weather station.

The Cold Weather Payment 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. We have been informed by the Met Office that Linton-on-Ouse weather station will be closing and the most appropriate weather station to replace it for the LS13, LS18 - LS20 and LS28 postcodes is the Bramham weather station. We have accepted this recommendation.

In its advice, the Met Office stated:

'The station located at Linton-on-Ouse (winter mean temperature 4.0 °C) is likely to close before the start of the 2019/20 cold weather payment service. This station is in the centre of a relatively large collection of postcode districts across Yorkshire. We recommend replacing the site with two locations, Bramham (4.0 °C) to cover those postcodes in the southern part of the region, and re-introducing the station at Leeming (3.9 °C) to cover those in the north. The winter mean climatology is very similar at each site, but two sites are recommended to minimise the geographical distance to a reference station for the postcodes affected.'

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).

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

Best Wishes

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Will Quince MP

Minister for Welfare Delivery