Annual review of the Cold Weather Payment scheme ahead of the 2024/25 season

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Met Office

Contents

Version Control

Date	Version	Comment
14/06/2024	1.0	First Draft
25/06/2024	2.0	Final Draft

1. Introduction

This report details a review of the station to postcode linkages used in the cold weather payment scheme.

The design and operation of the social fund cold weather payments (CWP) is the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), supported by the Met Office. Met Office supply temperature data on a daily basis during an extended winter season (November to March) in order to determine if the payment criterion has occurred. This criterion is an average temperature at or below 0°C, over seven consecutive days. A mix of forecast temperatures and observed temperatures are used; forecasts to ensure timely payments are made and observed temperature for retrospective payments.

The scheme links groups of postcode districts (e.g., EX1 – EX8) to weather stations that report to the Met Office on a daily basis. The linkages have been made by Met Office using Geographical Information System (GIS) data. The approach takes account of topography, population distribution, climatology, and the distance from available weather stations. Each postcode district is assigned to a nearby station with the most representative climate in relation to the latest 30-year winter mean temperature. Accounting for all these factors means that the assigned station is not always geographically the closest one.

2. Purpose of the Annual Review

The purpose of the annual review is to detail any changes to stations that may need to be made before the beginning of the next Cold Weather Payments season. The report covers the following matters:

- Determining the availability of the existing 79 weather stations covered by the scheme for the period between 1 November and 6 April, i.e., the period during which the Met Office provides temperature and forecast data for the scheme. Note: Since 1 November 2023, DWP requires weather station postcode linkages for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Identification of any substitute stations which are no longer available, or any that will become unavailable between now and the end of March 2025.
- To advise DWP if there are any weather stations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that are not used in the scheme that would be more representative than the existing weather stations or should be included as an additional weather station due to a gap in local sensitivity.
- To assess the impact of any relevant postcode changes provided in the most recent Royal Mail updates, 77 & 78.
- To review enquiries received from MPs during the operation of the past year's scheme, where they query the suitability of assigned stations, and where they ask for a review of assignments or of boundaries between assigned weather stations. These include enquiries made to DWP and those made directly to the Met Office which resulted in or recommended a review of the weather station within the annual service review.

- To advise whether the linkages identified are the most appropriate for next season's scheme and, if they are not, provide details of more suitable weather station linkages.

Updated Station Lists

To provide an updated list of alternate stations for all the 2024 - 2025 season nominated stations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

3. Weather Station Network Changes

A review of known station closures or risks and recent new stations in the Met Office observing network.

Closures

We have been advised of 1 station closure - Ballywatticock (99147) which closed on 12/03/2024. This was a first substitute station for Stormont Castle (DWP ID 93 WMO 99114). Our recommendation is that we move second and third substitutes to first and second substitutes respectively and then add in a new third substitute as follows:

First Substitute – Aldergrove 03917
Second Substitute – Katesbridge 99014
Third Substitute – Murlough 99130

Should any stations become at risk before the start of the season, an updated report will be issued.

New Stations

There are no newly opened stations that we recommend for inclusion in the service.

Removal of Primary Station

Following the review, it is recommended that Fylingdales weather station is removed as a primary station as it is concluded that Loftus is a more appropriate weather station for the handful of postcodes in the North York Moors that Fylingdales currently serves.

4. Postcode Changes

We have assessed the postcode changes provided in the most recent Royal Mail updates and have determined that these have no impact on the station linkages.

5. Ministerial Queries

Dr Kieran Mullan MP on behalf of **CW1 postcodes Keele**

A constituent in CW1 made contact to question why surrounding area's in the week leading up to December 4th received cold weather payments, but CW1 did not. Their question was why did they not receive a payment and what weather station is CW1 linked to?

Postcode district CW1 covers north and east Crewe along with the village of Haslington and these settlements have a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature in the range 4.8-4.9C. CW1 is currently linked to Keele weather station which has a winter mean temperature of 4.2C and is 17km to the southeast of Crewe. Alternative weather stations in the Cold Weather Payments scheme are Rostherne 29km to the north with a winter mean temperature of 5.0C, and Leek 30km to the east with a winter mean temperature of 3C. Whilst the winter mean temperature of CW1 is closest to Rostherne, Crewe is geographically much closer to Keele and that weather station is deemed most representative and therefore it is recommended to retain CW1, and the adjacent CW2 postcode that covers the rest of Crewe, with Keele weather station. And so, no change is recommended.

Fay Jones MP on behalf of Libanus and St Athan **SA9 and SA10 postcodes**

A number of constituents have raised inconsistencies between postcodes between two adjacent postcodes: SA9 and SA10. With SA9 being linked to Libanus weather station which is at a higher altitude and 13 miles away, and SA10 being linked to St Athan which is situated at a much lower altitude and is 28 miles away. Individuals living in SA9 are receiving far more cold weather payments than those living in the SA10 area. We are requested to reassess the location for temperature readings in the SA10 postcode area to ensure that it accurately represents the weather conditions in that specific region.

Postcode district SA10 extends from the coast at Neath/Castell-Nedd to 25km inland to the northeast along the Vale of Neath/Cwm Need and Dulais Valley / Cwm Dulais. Most of the population in these postcodes reside in Neath / Castell-Nedd at the coastal southwestern end of the district. Both are currently assigned to St Athan weather station which has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 5.9C. Neath / Castell-Nedd is 39km to the northwest of St Athan. Alternative primary weather stations in the Cold Weather Payments scheme in the general vicinity are Pembrey Sands (winter mean temperature 5.7C), 39km to the west of Neath along the coast, and Libanus (winter mean temperature 3.6C), 37km to the northeast and inland in the Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog.

As previously stated, most of the residents of SA10 live in Neath/Castell-Nedd which has a winter mean temperature of 5.9-6.3C. Much smaller settlements include Bryn Coch (5.6-6.0C), Aberdulais (5.7-5.9C), Resolven / Resolfen (5.4-5.8), Crynant / Creunant (5.1-5.2C), Seven Sisters/ Blaendulais (4.5-4.9C). Further even smaller and more remote communities include Dyffryn Cellwen (4.4-4.5C) and Coelbren (4.4C). It is recommended that SA10 remains linked to St Athan as that weather station best represents the likely temperatures experienced by most of the population in this postcode district.

SA9 is located to the northwest of the northern half of SA10 and is an entirely inland postcode district. It is currently linked to Libanus weather station, 26km to the northeast. Alternative weather stations are Pembrey Sands, 41km to the west, and St Athan 47km to the southeast. Ystradgynlais and Ystalyfera are the major settlements in SA9, and both have a winter mean temperature of 5.0-5.4C. Ystradowen 5.2-5.3 and Abercrave / Abercraf 4.9-5.0C are much smaller settlements. Whilst Libanus is the geographically closest weather station to SA9, it is recommended that SA9 is best linked to the next closest weather station, Pembrey Sands, as the major settlements in SA9 have winter mean temperatures much closer to Pembrey Sands than Libanus.

To summarise it is recommended that SA9 is moved from Libanus to Pembrey Sands weather station.

Kevin Hollinrake (General public enquiry) Leconfield **YO17**

We are requested to review why YO18 receives cold weather payments but the nearby YO17 does not.

YO17 is an inland postcode district covering the northern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds. It is currently linked to Leconfield weather station which has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 4.6C and is 37km southeast of the largest settlement in YO17, Malton. Malton has a winter mean temperature of 4.0-4.2C and so is 0.4-0.6C colder than Leconfield. Other significant settlements in YO17 include Settrington (winter mean temperature of 4.3C), Rillington (4.1C), Sherburn (4.2-4.3C), Great Hebton (4.0C), Helperthorpe and Weaverthorpe (4.0C) and Kirby Misperton (3.8C). YO17 could also potentially be linked to Fylingdales weather station (winter mean temperature of 2.9C and is 26km to the south-southwest), Bramham (4.3C and 46km to the southeast) and Loftus (4.1C and 48km to the north). Whilst geographically closer to Fylingdales than Leconfield, the winter mean temperature of YO17 is closer to that experienced at Leconfield than Fylingdales.

YO62 (3.6-4.4C), YO18 (3.6-4.0C) and YO13 (4.0-5.0C) align west to east directly north of YO17 and cover southern North York Moors and the range of winter mean temperatures of settlements within each are provided in parentheses. Postcode districts YO21 (3.5-5.0C) and YO22 (3.5-5.1C) adjoin and are directly north of YO18 and cover much of the northern North York Moor. Most residents in each district live in locations that have temperatures towards the milder

end of each listed range. All 5 postcode districts are currently assigned to Fylingdales weather station, and the weather station itself is located within YO18.

Whilst Fylingdales is the most logical weather station to use for the five North Yorks Moors postcodes listed in the previous paragraph as the weather station sits in the centre of this area, most residents live in areas where the temperature is much milder and best represented by Loftus. Loftus is located 7km north of YO21 and so is relatively close to all of these postcodes. It is therefore recommended to move these postcode districts from Fylingdales to Loftus based on winter mean temperatures and that the weather station is in the reasonable vicinity of them.

The original question referred to YO17. It's mean winter temperatures whilst colder than its current weather station Leconfield is also much milder than Fylingdales. Whilst Loftus is only the fourth closest weather station in the Cold Weather Payments scheme, in terms of winter mean temperature it best represents the winter mean temperatures of main settlements of YO17 and there are many examples of weather stations being such a distance away from the furthest postcodes that they serve.

To summarise it is recommended that YO17 is moved from Leconfield to Loftus. It is also recommended that YO13, YO18, YO21, YO22 and YO62 are moved from Fylingdales to Loftus and that Fylingdales is no longer required as a primary weather station in the Cold Weather Payments scheme.

Mark Menzies MP Flyde Crosby **PR1, and PR2, PR25, PR26, PR3, PR4, PR5, PR8, PR9R**

We are requested to review all PR postcode linkages. Temperatures at Preston Docks fell below freezing, but the local postcodes are linked to Crosby some 36 miles away, located on the river Mersey and warmer than Preston Docks.

Preston postcode districts PR1-5, 8-9, 25-26 are all currently linked to Crosby weather station. Crosby is situated on the coast to the northwest of Liverpool and has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 5.3C. All of the aforementioned postcode districts are geographically closer to Stonyhurst (winter mean temperature 4.6C) apart from PR8-9 which are coastal postcode districts covering Southport. The range of winter mean temperature for each postcode district is as follows: PR1 (5.0-5.2C), PR2 (4.6-5.2C), PR3 (4.2-5.1C), PR4 (4.8-5.1C), PR5 (4.7-5.2C), PR8 (5.0-5.4C), PR9 (4.8-5.3C), PR25 (4.8-5.1C), PR26 (4.9-5.1C). For completeness PR6, which is currently assigned to Stonyhurst weather station, has winter mean temperatures ranging from 3.9-4.9C, and PR7, currently assigned to Rostherne, 4.5-5.0C. Both postcodes are geographically closer to Stonyhurst than Crosby or Rostherne.

Of these postcodes it is recommended that PR1-5, 25-26 are moved from Crosby to Stonyhurst because they are both geographically closer to Stonyhurst and their winter mean temperatures are closer to Stonyhurst than Crosby. The only exception is PR26 which has a winter mean temperature marginally closer to Crosby but to avoid having a

weather station boundary within the Leyland and Bamber Bridge conurbations Stonyhurst has been chosen as more representative of the whole conurbation. Note that where possible urban conurbations are assigned a single weather station that best represents the whole built-up area to avoid the situation of adjacent streets having different payment outcomes is one station triggers a payment and the other doesn't.

It is also recommended that FY8 (winter mean temperature 4.8-5.0C) is also moved from Crosby to Stonyhurst based on its winter mean temperatures being marginally better represented by Stonyhurst.

To summarise it is recommended that PR1-5, 25-26 and FY8 are moved from Crosby to Stonyhurst weather stations.

Alex Cunningham MP on behalf of a Stockton North **TS postcodes**

Several constituents have raised issues regarding cold weather payments, and the fact that the TS postcodes are served by two different weather stations. Postcodes TS21, TS28 and TS29 are served by Albermarle (roughly 50 miles away) and benefit from cold weather payments, whereas all other TS postcodes are served by Loftus weather station (roughly 25 miles away) and do not benefit from cold weather payments. Constituents feel that this is unfair and that all TS postcodes should be served by one weather station.

Where possible a single weather station is used for an entire contiguous urban area as this avoids situations where households on either side of a weather station boundary on adjacent streets potentially receive different numbers of Cold Weather Payments. At present Teesside postcode districts TS1-8, TS10-14, TS17-20, TS22-27 are all served by Loftus weather station which is situated 24km to the east of Middlesborough. Loftus is the geographically closest weather station to all these districts.

Loftus weather station is 1.5km from the coast and has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 4.1C. Almost the entire region has a winter mean temperature warmer than Loftus weather station. Aside from Fylingdales weather station (winter mean temperature 2.9C) which serves the North York Moors to the south of Teesside, the nearest alternative weather station is Leeming (4.4C) which serves TS9, TS15 and TS16. It serves these postcodes because they are all inland postcodes and further inland from the main Teesside conurbation, and they are either equidistant between Loftus and Leeming or closer to Leeming. Winter mean temperatures in these districts are also close to those experienced at Leeming and so it is appropriate to leave these three postcode districts assigned to Leeming weather station.

TS21, TS28 and TS29 are all inland rural postcodes on the northwest side of Teesside and have winter mean temperatures in the range 3.6-4.0C significantly colder than the main conurbation of Teesside which is almost all above 4.3C. Sedgefield is the largest settlement within the three postcodes and lies within TS21. It is still modestly closer to Loftus (34km distant to the east southeast), than Albemarle (49km to the northwest), but as Albemarle has a

winter mean temperature of 3.7C, Albemarle is therefore the most weather station that best represents the winter mean temperature of these three TS postcode districts.

To summarise no change in postcode weather station linkages are recommended.

Ian Lavery (General public enquiry) on behalf of **NE22, NE24, NE61, NE62, NE63, NE64**

We are asked to review postcodes NE22, NE24, NE61, NE62, NE63, NE64 and NE23 and why some are linked to Morpeth, Cockle Park weather station and others to Albemarle weather station.

Following several enquiries related to the postcodes in the general vicinity of NE23 that straddle the boundary between the areas covered by the Albemarle and Morpeth, Cockle Park Cold Weather Payments weather stations the Met Office has conducted a complete review of postcodes served by Albemarle and direct surrounds follows to ensure that the Cold Weather Payments service is as fair as possible.

The most recent version of the 1km gridded winter mean temperature layer highlights that the 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of Albemarle is 3.7C. Albemarle currently covers most NE postcode districts apart from NE22, NE24, NE61-70 which are currently covered by Morpeth, Cockle Park, and NE71 which is covered by Charterhall. The mean winter temperature of Morpeth Cockle Park is 4.3C and, upon examination, most Newcastle (NE) postcodes assigned to Albemarle have winter mean temperatures exceeding 4.3C in their major built up areas. Whilst Morpeth, Cockle Park is generally geographically more distant than Albemarle it is recommended that these postcodes are moved from Albemarle to Morpeth, Cockle Park as the latter is deemed the most representative weather station based on winter mean temperature. This would therefore ensure that NE24 receives the same payments as neighbouring postcode districts. Additionally, the Met Office recommends that NE23 is also moved from Albemarle to Morpeth, Cockle Park as its winter mean temperature is best represented by the latter. If this is implemented Cramlington (NE23), Bedlington (NE22), Ashington (NE63) and Blyth (NE24) would then all receive the same payments as all would be linked to the same weather station.

Furthermore, as postcode districts DH2-5 have winter mean temperatures mostly exceeding 4.3C, it is recommended that they should also all be migrated to Morpeth, Cockle Park. Similarly, SR1-6. SR7 is geographically closer to Loftus than Morpeth, Cockle Park and has a winter mean temperature of 4.2C or greater, and it is recommended that this postcode district is moved from Albemarle to Loftus, based on geographic proximity and winter mean temperature.

If the recommendations above are implemented this would leave an arc of postcode districts remaining with Albemarle extending from NE20 in the north to TS21, TS28-29 in the south following the eastern flank of the Pennines. As DH8, which covers Consett, has a winter mean temperature ranging from 3.4-4.4C it is recommended that this is moved from Redesdale, which has a winter mean temperature of 2.9C and is situated 56km to the northwest, to Albemarle

(3.7C) which is 19km to the north. This is recommended because Albemarle is both the closest station geographically and most representative in terms of winter mean temperature.

To summarise all recommended changes: Postcode districts moving from Albemarle to Morpeth, Cockle Park are DH2-5, NE1-13, NE15-17, NE21, NE23, NE25-43, SR1-6, Albemarle to Loftus SR7 and Redesdale to Albemarle DH8.

DESNZ on behalf of **Blagdon BS40**

This is an official enquiry directly from DESNZ, where they request a review of BS40 postcode weather station suitability. The enquirer has stated that during winter periods the temperature often drops well below -5°C but cold weather payments are not received due to the weather station they are linked to.

Blagdon is situated close to the centre of the dominantly rural B40 postcode district. At its southern end are the Mendip Hills whilst the central and northern portions of the district are lower lying although still undulating terrain where almost all residents of B40 live. This area contains several villages along with Blagdon and Chew Valley lakes. Blagdon lies close to the centre of BS40 and has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 5.0-5.4C. Other sizeable settlements include Langford (winter mean temperature 5.5C), Wrington (5.6C), Felton (5.0C), Winford (5.1C), Chew Stoke (5.4C), Chew Magna (5.4-5.5C), Ubley (5.5C), Compton Martin (5.3C) and East and West Harptree (5.0-5.3C).

BS40 is 26km south southwest of Almondsbury (5.3C) and 36km north of Yeovilton (5.5C) weather stations. Considering BS40's closer geographic proximity to Almondsbury, and winter mean temperature that is more similar to Almondsbury, and that the Mendips form a topographic divide to the south, no change of weather station is recommended and therefore Almondsbury should be retained for this postcode district.

Additionally, it is recommended that BS25, the directly adjacent postcode district to the west of BS40 and currently linked to Yeovilton, is also assigned to Almondsbury. BS25 is geographically closer to Almondsbury (32km to northeast) than Yeovilton (37km to south southeast), is also on the Almondsbury side of the Mendip Hills, the winter mean temperatures of major settlements in the postcode district (Winscombe (5.3-5.5C), Sandford (5.4-5.5C), Dinghurst (5.3C) and Shipham (4.9C)) are closer to those experienced at Almondsbury than Yeovilton.

To summarise it is recommended that BS25 is moved from Yeovilton to Almondsbury weather station.

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP on behalf of a constituent **DE6 and surrounding postcodes Nottingham Watnall**

Concern raised around disparity in the way postcode areas are mapped with weather stations for postcode district DE6 and surrounding postcodes. Requesting for review of the entire area for better representation.

DE6 is currently assigned to Nottingham Watnall weather station and is an extensive rural postcode situated on the southern edge of the Peak District National Park. Ashbourne is the largest settlement and is surrounded by many villages scattered throughout the district. To the north, the land is much higher and forms part of the Pennine Hills. To the south the land is lower, with the river Dove forming part of the southern border of the postcode district.

Nottingham Watnall has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 4.6C and is 32km east of Ashbourne. Two other primary weather stations currently used in the Cold Weather Payments scheme are in the vicinity of Ashbourne and could potentially be used. These are Keele (37km to the west with winter mean temperature of 4.2C), and Leek (22km to the northwest with winter mean temperature of 3.0C). The winter mean temperature of Ashbourne is 3.8-4.2C, and a selection of the larger villages in DE6 are as follows: Alstonefield (3.3-3.4C), Brailsford (4.0C), Doveridge (4.4-4.6C), Hulland Ward (3.8C), Mayfield (4.1C), Parwich (3.8C), Weston Underwood (4.2C).

Considering the evidence above, the winter mean temperature of Nottingham Watnall (4.6C) is warmer than all quoted settlements in DE6 apart from a small portion of Doveridge. Leek (3.0C) is the closest of the three weather stations under consideration, but its winter mean temperature is colder than all quoted settlements. Whilst Keele (4.2C) is the furthest of the three primary weather stations under consideration, its winter mean temperature most closely matches Ashbourne and the quoted villages in DE6, although it is generally a few tenths of a degree warmer than most of DE6.

Several neighbouring postcode districts are currently linked to Leek that also line the southern edge of the Peak District National Park and the winter mean temperatures of their villages and towns are listed: DE4 (3.2-4.5C), DE45 (3.6-4.3C), ST9 (3.3-4.0C), ST10 (3.3-4.3C) and ST13 (3.5-4.0C). Although parts of the built-up areas in these postcodes have winter mean temperatures similar to Keele, significant parts are colder and to be consistent across the whole of the southern end of the Peak District it is recommended that DE6 is moved from Nottingham Watnall not to Keele but to Leek.

Adjoining DE4 and DE45 are S42 (4.1-4.5C), S44 (4.0-4.7C) and S45 (4.0-4.4C). These are currently linked to Sheffield (4.8C) and are roughly equidistant between Sheffield and Nottingham Watnall. Their winter temperatures are closer to Nottingham Watnall (4.6C) than Sheffield and based on winter mean temperature it is recommended that they are moved to Nottingham Watnall.

To summarise it is recommended to move DE6 from Nottingham Watnall to Leek and S42, S44 and S45 from Sheffield to Nottingham Watnall.

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP, on SK11 Rostherne

Concern raised around disparity in the way postcode areas are selected for eligibility for cold weather payments. ST9, ST10 and ST13 are linked to Thornecliff weather stations and receive cold weather payments. Postcodes like ST11 and ST8 are not linked to the same station. Could a system based on individual parishes be used instead?

The area in question encompasses an extensive rural tranche of Staffordshire and Cheshire East and lies to the north and east of Stoke-on-Trent encompassing much of the Staffordshire moorlands. Parts of ST10, ST13 and SK11 lie within the Peak District National Park. SK11 has quite a climatic range with the land rising steadily towards the east above Macclesfield towards Buxton.

At present three weather stations serve the area referred to in the question. Leek weather station lies within the Peak District National Park in ST13 and has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 3.0C. It currently serves ST9, ST10 and ST13 referred to in the question along with other upland postcode districts. Keele is 24km southwest of Leek and has a mean winter temperature of 4.2C and serves ST8 and ST11 and other more low-lying areas around Stoke-on-Trent. Rostherne Is located 37km to the northwest of Leek and has a mean winter temperature of 5.0C and serves SK11 and much of East Cheshire and Greater Manchester.

As Leek is both the geographically closest weather station to ST9, ST10 and ST13 and has winter mean temperatures (3.1-4.2C) in the main settlements of these postcodes, temperatures most similar to Leek, it is recommended that they remain assigned to Leek.

ST8 is roughly equidistant with Leek and Keele and has a winter mean temperature in built-up areas including Biddulph and Biddulph Moor ranging between 3.4-4.2C. Based on its winter mean temperature it is recommended that ST8 is transferred from Keele to Leek as it is mostly somewhat colder than Keele and the range is quite similar to ST9, ST10 and ST13 which are already assigned to Leek weather station. Additionally, ST11 is also roughly equidistant with Leek and Keele, its winter mean temperatures in ST11 in Blythe Bridge, Draycott in the Moors, Cookshill and Fulford range between 3.5-4.0C. Based on its winter mean temperature it is recommended that ST11 is also transferred from Keele to Leek for similar reasons to ST8.

SK10 and adjacent postcode district SK11 cover the whole of Macclesfield and many surrounding settlements and have winter mean temperatures in the range 3.7-4.5C. Whilst 18km northwest of Leek, 20km southeast of Rostherne and 30km north of Keele it is recommended that these districts are moved from Rostherne to Keele as although only the third closest weather station, the temperatures in these postcode districts are best represented by Keele.

To summarise it is recommended that ST8 and ST11 are moved from Keele to Leek weather station and SK10 and SK11 from Rostherne to Keele.

Robin Millar MP on behalf of a constituent in **LL26, LL27**

A request for review of both LL26 and LL27 postcode locations which are located in valley surroundings. They are currently linked to Rhyl weather station.

Agreed within the response that Rhyl and Capel Curig postcodes would all be reviewed.

Capel Curig weather station currently serves LL24, L25 and LL41 postcode districts towards the northern end of Snowdonia/Eryi National Park. The weather station is situated in LL24 and is 2.5km southwest of Capel Curig village and has a 1991-2020 winter mean temperature of 3.9C. This is significantly colder than the major settlement in LL24, Betws Y Coed, which has a winter mean temperature ranging between 4.7-5.4C. The rest of LL24 is sparsely populated but some example villages and their winter mean temperatures include Penmachno (4.6C), Pentrefoelas (4.3C), Ysbyty Ifan (4.2C) and Capel Curig (4.2-4.6C).

LL26 which includes Llanrwst and LL27 which includes Trefriw are situated directly north of LL24, and both are linked to Rhyl weather station. Rhyl weather station is 7km south and inland of the coastal resort of Rhyl and has a winter mean temperature of 5.7C. Llanrwst, where most residents in LL26 live, is 23km west-southwest of Rhyl and has a winter mean temperature of 5.1-5.5C. Other villages in LL26 include Capel Garmon (4.3C) and Llanddoged (4.9C). Trefriw in LL26 is 24km west-southwest of Rhyl and has a winter mean temperature of 4.2-5.6C although around 85% of residents experience a winter mean temperature of 4.9-5.6C. The remainder of LL27 is very sparsely populated. Trefriw and Llanrwst are 10 and 11km northeast of Capel Curig weather station respectively and so Capel Curig weather stations is geographically much closer but whilst all settlements in LL25 and LL26 are therefore colder than Rhyl weather station in terms of winter mean temperature but are also warmer than Capel Curig.

Also mentioned in the question are other locations in neighbouring postcode districts and these are examined. Dolwyddelan is the major settlement in LL25 and has a winter mean temperature of 4.4-5C. Blaenau Ffestiniog is the major settlement in LL41 and has a winter mean temperature of 4.4-4.9C. Both are geographically closer to Capel Curig weather station, and along with LL24 are currently served by that weather station. Their winter mean temperatures are slightly closer to Capel Curig than Rhyl, or indeed Mona (winter mean temperature 5.6C) which is located to the northwest on Anglesey/Ynys Môn.

The winter mean temperatures of settlements in LL26 and LL27 are milder overall than settlements in the three postcode districts currently served by Capel Curig weather station, namely LL24, LL25 and LL41. Unfortunately, a line must be drawn between the two weather station areas and after careful consideration weighing up the evidence

despite being geographically closer to Capel Curig weather station it is fairest to retain LL26 and LL27 with Rhyl weather station, and LL24, LL25 and LL41 with Capel Curig.

To summarise no change in postcode weather station linkages are recommended.

Updated Station lists

Updated station lists will follow acceptance of the recommended changes.

6. Summary of 2024-25 Changes

Postcode/s impacted	Recommended changes to weather stations
SA9	Libanus to Pembrey Sands
YO17	Leconfield to Loftus
YO13, YO18, YO21, YO22, YO62	Fylingdales to Loftus
PR1, PR2, PR3, PR4, PR5, PR25, PR26, FY8	Crosby to Stonyhurst
DH2-5, NE1-13, NE15-17, NE21, NE23, NE25-43, SR1-6	Albemarle to Morpeth, Cockle Park
SR7	Albemarle to Loftus
DH8	Redesdale to Albemarle
BS25	Yeovilton to Almondsbury
DE6	Nottingham Watnall to Leek
S42, S44, S45	Sheffield to Nottingham Watnall
ST8, ST11	Keele to Leek
SK10, SK11	Rostherne to Keele

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