



Department for

Communities

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Communities

Social Security Policy, Legislation and
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Email: sspld@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 18 June 2025

Mr Tony McMullan
Secretary
Northern Ireland Branch
Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance

Via Email: tony.mcmullan@outlook.com

Dear Mr McMullan,

Winter Fuel Payment in Northern Ireland

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2025, addressed to the Department for Communities Press Office. I have responsibility for the Winter Fuel Payment scheme policy in Northern Ireland; therefore, your email has been passed to me to provide you with a response.

You asked us to clarify what is going to happen to Northern Ireland following the statement by the Chancellor Rachel Reeves, when she announced that almost 9 million Pensioners in England & Wales will have their Winter Fuel Payment restored this Winter. I would provide you with the following update.

On 10 June 2025, the Communities Minister Gordon Lyons MLA made a statement to the Northern Ireland Assembly, during which he stated that he had obtained the support of his Executive colleagues to reinstate the Winter Fuel Payment to all pensioners in Northern Ireland subject to the following criteria:

- everyone over the State Pension age in Northern Ireland will receive a Winter Fuel Payment this Winter.
- there will be an option to opt out {from receiving the payment} however, work is ongoing to finalise a solution which will be announced at a later stage.
- pensioners with an income of, or above, £35,000 a year will have their payment automatically recovered by HMRC. This threshold is well above the income level of pensioners in poverty and is broadly in line with average earnings, balancing support for lower income pensioners with fairness to the taxpayer.
- Winter Fuel Payments are worth £200 per household, or £300 per household where there is someone over 80.
- for those with an income of £35,000, or above, the payment will be recovered from individuals via HMRC based on their individual taxable incomes.
 - For example - in a couple household where both pensioners are under 80 and not in receipt of Pension Credit, each will receive a payment of £100 (i.e. £200 for the household). If both have an income of £35,000 or above, HMRC will recover the £100 payment from each individual. If one has income below £35,000, they will keep the £100 payment while the other £100 will be recovered.
- payment will be recovered via PAYE for the vast majority, or in their Self-Assessment tax return for the minority who file and pay their taxes in this way. HMRC will work closely with representative bodies to ensure the process is as simple as possible with clear guidance for taxpayers.

Pensioners do not have to do anything in order to receive the Winter Fuel Payment. The payment will be made automatically via the normal payment channels. It is anticipated that most payments will be made during November and December, in line with the timing of previous years.

I trust that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Noble". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

John Noble
Social Security Policy, Legislation and Decision Making Services