Winter Fuel Payment

What is Winter Fuel Payment?

The Winter Fuel Payment is a benefit that helps older people with their heating costs during the winter months. It's a tax-free payment made once a year, which is paid automatically if you qualify.

Who Qualifies?

You will automatically qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment if you were born before 23rd September 1959, live in England or Wales and receive any of the following benefits:

- **Pension Credit**
- **Universal Credit**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)**
- **Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)**
- **Income Support**

You will not qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment if:

- You have been in hospital getting free treatment for more than a year
- You need permission to enter the UK and your granted leave says that you cannot claim public funds
- You were in prison for the whole of the week of 15th to 21st September 2025

What Will You Receive?

If you live alone

If you live alone you'll get either:

£200	If you were born between 23rd September 1944 and 21st September 1959
£300	If you were born before 23rd September 1944

If you live with someone else

If you live with someone and you and your partner jointly claim any of the qualifying benefits, one of you will get a payment of either:

£200	If both of you were born between 23rd September 1944 and 22nd September 1959
£300	If one or both of you were born before 23rd September 1944

If you are automatically eligible, you will receive a letter in October or November to let you know how much you will get.

FAQs

How do I get the Winter Fuel Payment?
You'll get a letter in October or November telling you how much Winter Fuel Payment you'll get if you're eligible.

How much will I receive?
The amount you get is based on when you were born and your circumstances between the 15th and 21st of September 2025, also known as the 'qualifying week'. Any money you get is tax-free and will not affect your other benefits. Please see page 1 for a breakdown of what you will receive.

Can I get the Winter Fuel Payment if I live in a care home?
You can get the Winter Fuel Payment if you live in a care home. However, you will not be eligible if both of the following apply:

- you get Pension Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA);
- you lived in a care home for the whole time from 23rd June to 21st September 2025.

How We Can Help

If you live in the Barnsley borough and would like some advice on Winter Fuel Payment, you can email us or call our advice line:

first.contact@dialbarnsley.org.uk

01226 240273

How To Apply

You can claim Winter Fuel Payment by post from 16th September 2024, or by phone from 10th October 2024.

If you get Universal Credit, you'll be told how to claim through a message in your journal.

The deadline to make a claim for winter 2025 to 2026 is 31st March 2026.

To claim by post, download a form and return it to the following address:
Winter Fuel Payment Centre
Mail Handling Site A
Wolverhampton
WV98 1LR

www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/how-to-claim

To claim by phone call the Winter Fuel Payment Centre:
Telephone: 0800 731 0160
Textphone: contact Relay UK on 18001 then 0800 731 0160

When will I receive the payment?
Most payments are made automatically in November or December.

Where will the money be paid?
It will usually be paid into the same account as your Pension Credit or other benefits.