

Winter Fuel Allowance Payments (Off Gas Grid Claimants) Bill

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TO

Provide for the early payment of winter fuel allowance to eligible persons whose residences are not connected to the mains gas grid and whose principal source of fuel is home fuel oil, liquid petroleum gas or propane gas; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Qualifying week

- (1) The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000/729) are amended as follows.
- (2) In regulation 1(2) leave out ““qualifying week” means in respect of any year the week beginning on the third Monday in the September of that year” and insert—

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““qualifying week” means—

- (a) in respect of any year for an applicant whose home is connected to the mains gas grid the week beginning on the third Monday in the September of that year; or
- (b) in respect of any year for an applicant whose home is not connected to the mains gas grid the week beginning on the third Monday in the July of that year.”

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2 Making a winter fuel payment without a claim

- (1) The Social Fund Winter Fuel Payment Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000/729) are amended as follows.
- (2) In regulation 4, leave out paragraph (1) and insert—

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“(1) Subject to paragraph (2) the Secretary of State may make a winter fuel payment under regulation 2 to a person who (disregarding regulation 3(b)) appears from official records held by the Secretary of State to be entitled to a payment under that regulation—

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- (a) in respect of an applicant whose home is not connected to the mains gas grid, before 30 September of the year in which the qualifying week falls, or
- (b) in respect of an applicant whose home is connected to the mains gas grid, before 31 March of the year following the year in which the qualifying week falls. 5

(1A) Payments made under paragraph (1)(a) are made in respect of the forthcoming winter.

(1B) Payments made under paragraph (1) (b) are made in respect of the preceding winter.” 10

3 Financial provisions

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament—

- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or by virtue of this Act by the Secretary of State, and*
- (b) *any increase attributable to the Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.* 15

4 Extent and short title

- (1) This Bill extends to England and Wales, and Scotland.
- (2) This Act may be cited as the Winter Fuel Allowance Payments (Off Gas Grid Claimants) Act 2012. 20

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To provide for the early payment of winter fuel allowance to eligible persons whose residences are not connected to the mains gas grid and whose principal source of fuel is home fuel oil, liquid petroleum gas or propane gas; and for connected purposes.

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