

Cold Climate Allowance Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Require the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on providing additional allowances to people in receipt of the state pension and other social security benefits in places with colder climates to reflect the increased cost of domestic heating; 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 Cold Climate Allowance

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare a report on the merits of introducing a Cold Climate Allowance, including the potential effects on fuel poverty.
- (2) A “Cold Climate Allowance” is a weekly payment to eligible persons for the period of 17 weeks beginning with the first full week in December each year. 5
- (3) An “eligible person” is a person eligible for—
 - (a) the State Pension,
 - (b) Universal Credit,
 - (c) Income Support,
 - (d) income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, or 10
 - (e) income-related Employment and Support Allowance.
- (4) The weekly rates of the Cold Climate Allowance are the higher of—
 - £45.05 or 30% of the reference rate in Zone 4;
 - £27.56 or 20% of the reference rate in Zone 3;
 - £13.78 or 10% of the reference rate in Zone 2. 15
- (5) In this section—
 - “the reference rate” means one-seventeenth of the annual equivalent of the total weekly amounts in paragraphs 6(2)(a) to 6(2)(d) of Schedule 1 (payments in respect of fuel charges) of the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/213); 20
 - “Zone 4”, “Zone 3” and “Zone 2” have the meaning given in the Schedule to this Act.

- (6) The report must be laid before Parliament before the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Cold Climate Allowance Act 2022.

SCHEDULE

Section 1

CLIMATIC ZONES

- 1 For the purposes of this Act, the United Kingdom is divided into the following climatic zones –
- Zone 1: Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Bristol, the Isle of Wight, Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent, Greater London, the City of London. 5
 - Zone 2: Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, West Midlands, Hereford and Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, all of Wales. 10
 - Zone 3: Ayrshire and Arran, Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Forth Valley, Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lanarkshire, Lothian, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, North Yorkshire, all of Northern Ireland. 15
 - Zone 4: Shetland, Orkney, Western Isles, Highland, Grampian, Tayside. 20
- 2 In this Schedule –
- areas in England are counties for the purposes of the Lieutenancies Act 1997;
 - areas in Scotland are NHS Scotland Health Board areas.

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