



Eich cyf/Your ref LN3452

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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18 August 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter on the 4 August on Welsh Government action on the cost of living crisis. As you are aware the Welsh Government is committed to doing everything we can to support those in Wales hardest hit by the current cost of living crisis. I welcome the committee's acknowledgment of the actions we have taken and continue to take to alleviate the pressures caused by the cost of living crisis.

In your letter you asked a number of questions in relation to Winter Fuel Support Scheme, the Cost of Living Support Scheme and the Discretionary Assistance Fund – Emergency Assistance Payments and support for off-grid households with fuel costs.

Winter Fuel Support Scheme

In your letter you asked if I could set out the take-up rate for the Winter Fuel Support Scheme, including how many households were eligible for support, and how many households received support in each local authority. The Welsh Government forecast turnout for the first Winter Fuel Payment Scheme in 21/22 was estimated at 350,000 households. This number was based on the number of persons in receipt of an eligible DWP benefit in Wales. We now know this figure was overestimated due to difficulties in accurately identifying individual fuel liable households from all benefit households within the DWP data. Officials now estimate 220,000 households were eligible for support through the 21/22 scheme. Unfortunately, as the estimates were based on national data we do not have data on the number of households eligible by local authority area.

You also asked for the total value of payments made to households in each local

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

authority under the scheme. This information is included at Annex A below.

Finally on the Winter Fuel Support Scheme you asked what data the Welsh Government collected on eligibility for, and take-up of the Winter Fuel Support Scheme by socio-economic status or protected characteristic. I can confirm that no data was collected by authorities on a household's socio-economic status or protected characteristic as this was not considered to be relevant to the administration of the scheme.

Cost of Living Support Scheme

In your letter you asked how many households within each local authority are eligible for the Cost of Living Support Scheme, and how many have received a payment through the scheme to date. Please see the tables at Annex B on the estimated number of properties eligible for the scheme identified using the criteria based on the council tax information in January 2022. The number of eligible households is an estimate based on the position when the Scheme was introduced. The payments are correct as at Monday, 8 August. I can confirm that it was estimated that a total of 1,013,142 households were eligible for the scheme and as at 8 August 2022, 982,715 had received a payment.

You also asked if I could provide an update on final take up figures and the total value of payments made to each local authority after the scheme closes on 30 September. I can confirm that I will provide an update in October 2022.

In terms of your request on what data, if any, the Welsh Government is collecting on eligibility or take-up of the Cost of Living Support Scheme by socio-economic status or protected characteristic. I can confirm that no specific data is being collected on socio-economic status or protected characteristics in relation to the Cost-of-Living Support Scheme. The criteria for eligibility comprises being resident in a property that sits within council tax Band A to D or in receipt of our Council Tax Reduction Scheme (any band).

In the absence of detailed income data on every household, property choice is the closest indicator of relative wealth and income circumstances, albeit we recognise it is not a perfect measure. The use of lower banded properties and the receipt of CTRS as qualifying criteria ensures that the Scheme is generally targeted towards households on lower incomes.

Finally on the Cost of Living Support Scheme, you have asked if I will provide details, once data is available, of how many households in each local authority were helped by the discretionary element of the Cost of Living Support Scheme, and the total value of the payments made to households in each local authority via this element of the scheme. I can confirm that I will provide information on this in April 2023 as the discretionary scheme can run to 31 March 2023.

Discretionary Assistance Fund - Emergency Assistance Payments

In your letter you asked how many applications, by local authority, have been made for Emergency Assistance payments in 2020, 2021 and 2022. You also asked how many Emergency Assistance Payments have been made through the Discretionary Assistance Fund to households in each local authority for 2020, 2021 and to date during 2022. I have included this information at Annex C. These tables also include the total value of Emergency Assistance Payments made to households in each local authority for 2020, 2021 and 2022. The 2022 data is as at 11 August 2022.

You also asked how many households have received 2, 3, 4 or 5 payments in each year. This information is included at Annex D.

Discretionary Assistance Fund – support for off-grid households with fuel costs

In your letter you asked how many applications, by local authority, were made to the Discretionary Assistance Fund for support for off-grid fuel costs in 2020, 2021 and to date during 2022. You also asked how many payments have been made to households in each local authority to help with off-grid fuel costs through the Discretionary Assistance Fund in 2020, 2021 and 2022 and for the total value of payments made through the Discretionary Assistance Fund for off-grid fuel costs by each local authority in 2020, 2021 and so far during 2022. This information is also included in the tables at Annex C. The 2022 data is as at 11 August 2022

It should be noted that support for off-grid fuel was introduced in 2021, so there is no information for 2020. In addition, due to the value of the amount awarded, applicants are allowed to make only one application for support with off-grid fuel costs per year. There is therefore no data for the number of applications per household as requested as all approved applicants will receive only one payment.

I am copying this letter to Paul Davies MS, Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter "J".

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice

Annex A - Winter Fuel Support Scheme payments made to households, by local authority area

Council	Applications Paid	Value
Neath Port Talbot CBC	10746	£2,340,038
Rhondda Cynon Taff	14716	£3,093,831
Gwynedd	5180	£1,091,895
Denbighshire county council	4734	£1,176,690
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	5506	£1,151,799
Conwy County Borough Council	5422	£1,137,767
Carmarthenshire County Council	8523	£1,789,920
Bridgend County Borough Council	8666	£1,820,219
Cardiff Council	21940	£4,606,031
Ceredigion County Council	2879	£603,897
Flintshire County Council	6680	£1,400,712
Caerphilly	11211	£2,375,608
Newport City Council	8533	£1,792,919
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	4707	£991,961
Pembrokeshire Council Council	4575	£1,000,184
Swansea	13806	£2,896,340
Powys cc	3811	£800,675
Torfaen County Borough Council	5806	£1,337,500
Monmouthshire County Council	2320	£501,653
Wrexham	7431	£1,521,225
Vale of Glamorgan	6479	£1,374,754
Ynys Mon	3109	£650,308
Total	166780	£35,455,926

Annex B - Cost-of-Living Support Scheme

Estimated number of eligible households by local authority and indicative funding allocation

	Estimated number of eligible households	Funding allocation (£)
Isle of Anglesey	23,714	3,557,100
Gwynedd	39,907	5,986,050
Conwy	38,878	5,831,700
Denbighshire	32,465	4,869,750
Flintshire	46,575	6,986,250
Wrexham	43,168	6,475,200
Powys	37,461	5,619,150
Ceredigion	19,719	2,957,850
Pembrokeshire	37,708	5,656,200
Carmarthenshire	63,046	9,456,900
Swansea	81,037	12,155,550
Neath Port Talbot	56,810	8,521,500
Bridgend	50,095	7,514,250
Vale of Glamorgan	33,428	5,014,200
Rhondda Cynon Taf	92,884	13,932,600
Merthyr Tydfil	23,900	3,585,000
Caerphilly	67,676	10,151,400
Blaenau Gwent	30,241	4,536,150
Torfaen	34,679	5,201,850
Monmouthshire	20,204	3,030,600
Newport	50,642	7,596,300
Cardiff	88,905	13,335,750
Wales Total	1,013,142	151,971,300

Payment Summary by Authority, at 7 August 2022

		Cumulative Total	
		Awards (no)	Value (£)
Isle of Anglesey	CTRS Bands A-I	14,676	2,201,400
	Bands A-D	7,288	1,093,200
	Total	21,964	3,294,600
Gwynedd	CTRS Bands A-I	8,652	1,297,800
	Bands A-D	30,834	4,625,100
	Total	39,486	5,922,900
Conwy	CTRS Bands A-I	8,121	1,218,150
	Bands A-D	25,634	3,845,100
	Total	33,755	5,063,250
Denbighshire	CTRS Bands A-I	5,268	796,950
	Bands A-D	21,074	3,161,100
	Total	26,342	3,958,050
Flintshire	CTRS Bands A-I	9,349	1,402,350
	Bands A-D	34,534	5,180,100
	Total	43,883	6,582,450
Wrexham	CTRS Bands A-I	7,893	1,183,950
	Bands A-D	28,076	4,211,400
	Total	35,969	5,395,350
Powys	CTRS Bands A-I	6,588	988,200
	Bands A-D	23,600	3,540,000
	Total	30,188	4,528,200
Ceredigion	CTRS Bands A-I	5,343	801,450
	Bands A-D	13,905	2,085,750
	Total	19,248	2,887,200
Pembrokeshire	CTRS Bands A-I	4,721	708,150
	Bands A-D	22,182	3,327,300
	Total	26,903	4,035,450
Carmarthenshire	CTRS Bands A-I	12,270	1,840,500
	Bands A-D	45,578	6,836,700
	Total	57,848	8,677,200
Swansea	CTRS Bands A-I	15,810	2,371,500
	Bands A-D	52,912	7,936,800
	Total	68,722	10,308,300
Neath Port Talbot	CTRS Bands A-I	15,045	2,256,750
	Bands A-D	39,043	5,856,450
	Total	54,088	8,113,200
Bridgend	CTRS Bands A-I	10,061	1,509,150
	Bands A-D	33,981	5,097,150
	Total	44,042	6,606,300
Vale of Glamorgan	CTRS Bands A-I	1,744	261,600
	Bands A-D	28,086	4,212,900
	Total	29,830	4,474,500
Rhondda Cynon Taf	CTRS Bands A-I	21,890	3,283,500
	Bands A-D	66,868	10,030,200
	Total	88,758	13,313,700

Merthyr Tydfil	CTRS Bands A-I	4,957	743,550
	Bands A-D	16,395	2,459,250
	Total	21,352	3,202,800
Caerphilly	CTRS Bands A-I	13,737	2,060,550
	Bands A-D	47,532	7,129,800
	Total	61,269	9,190,350
Blaenau Gwent	CTRS Bands A-I	7,248	1,087,200
	Bands A-D	19,388	2,908,200
	Total	26,636	3,995,400
Torfaen	CTRS Bands A-I	9,081	1,362,150
	Bands A-D	23,561	3,534,150
	Total	32,642	4,896,300
Monmouthshire	CTRS Bands A-I	4,864	729,600
	Bands A-D	13,599	2,039,850
	Total	18,463	2,769,450
Newport	CTRS Bands A-I	10,012	1,501,800
	Bands A-D	34,339	5,150,850
	Total	44,351	6,652,650
Cardiff	CTRS Bands A-I	27,111	4,066,650
	Bands A-D	53,604	8,040,600
	Total	80,715	12,107,250
Wales Total			
Wales Total	CTRS Bands A-I	224,441	33,672,900
	Bands A-D	682,013	102,301,950
	Total	982,715	141,229,130

Annex C - Discretionary Assistance Fund

Emergency Assistance Payments and support for off-grid households with fuel costs - Applications, paid claims and values by local authority, by year

2020

Local Authority	EAP Applications	Paid	Value	Off-grid fuel apps	Off-grid fuel paid	Value
Blaenau Gwent	11849	6732	£534,140.00			
Bridgend	14279	8302	£542,944.00			
Caerphilly	21063	12693	£929,075.00			
Cardiff	45752	27444	£1,778,002.10			
Carmarthenshire	13334	7910	£541,362.97	1		
Ceredigion	1998	1133	£74,906.80			
Conwy	9052	5265	£436,938.00			
Denbighshire	9882	5483	£381,007.20			
Flintshire	10713	6433	£439,894.81			
Gwynedd	8645	5044	£334,374.11			
Isle of Anglesey	4622	2628	£172,680.00			
Merthyr Tydfil	12017	7090	£600,090.00			
Monmouthshire	3509	2106	£218,430.00			
Neath Port Talbot	16237	9452	£658,512.44			
Newport	23970	14084	£911,335.00			
Pembrokeshire	6301	3559	£229,670.60			
Powys	3828	2188	£217,730.00			
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	29985	17276	£1,115,572.00			
Swansea	25899	15358	£1,035,172.95			
Torfaen	11197	6732	£452,410.62	1		
Vale of Glamorgan	10970	6726	£445,961.93			
Wrexham	15833	9422	£621,318.40			
TOTAL	310935	183060	£12,671,528.93	2	0	0

2021

Local Authority	EAP Applications	Paid	Value	Off-grid fuel apps	Off-grid fuel paid	Value
Blaenau Gwent	14242	8145	£564,446.49	17	14	£1,380.00
Bridgend	17393	10009	£698,986.12	12	6	£610.00
Caerphilly	23332	13550	£959,144.00	14	2	£120.00
Cardiff	50785	29518	£2,049,850.60	158	130	£14,030.00
Carmarthenshire	15530	9241	£682,102.42	204	161	£35,084.40
Ceredigion	2622	1545	£115,285.00	78	63	£13,280.00
Conwy	9755	5715	£402,733.50	26	19	£3,000.00
Denbighshire	11041	6495	£458,613.28	21	15	£2,250.00
Flintshire	12455	7458	£533,211.80	30	14	£2,140.00
Gwynedd	10087	6042	£429,858.56	60	35	£3,900.00
Isle of Anglesey	5075	3074	£216,698.54	31	20	£2,820.00
Merthyr Tydfil	13706	8005	£547,068.00	3	1	£70.00
Monmouthshire	4140	2378	£163,085.00	11	8	£1,490.00
Neath Port Talbot	20122	11773	£821,545.00	28	8	£1,240.00
Newport	26877	15494	£1,067,130.20	17	4	£450.00
Pembrokeshire	7802	4531	£328,876.58	174	127	£20,600.00
Powys	4449	2579	£189,925.00	86	73	£17,020.00
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	35030	20030	£1,381,807.03	26	9	£1,110.00
Swansea	28201	16694	£1,147,201.30	37	16	£3,200.00
Torfaen	12734	7585	£534,429.30	27	15	£1,260.00
Vale of Glamorgan	12321	7276	£512,570.00	5	2	£200.00
Wrexham	18760	11041	£794,928.62	19	8	£680.00
TOTAL	356459	208178	£14,599,496.34	1084	750	£125,934.40

2022 – to 11 August 2022

Local Authority	EAP Applications	Paid	Value	Off-grid fuel apps	Off-grid fuel paid	Value
Blaenau Gwent	12469	7937	£551,130.00	1		
Bridgend	13841	9083	£635,999.10	15	15	£1,620.00
Caerphilly	19426	12743	£900,740.00			
Cardiff	38729	25149	£1,746,524.00	77	63	£5,560.00
Carmarthenshire	12042	8169	£608,203.21	160	141	£33,160.00
Ceredigion	2199	1452	£112,721.40	78	70	£16,310.00
Conwy	7849	5184	£360,388.70	11	11	£2,390.00
Denbighshire	8925	5930	£422,887.61	11	11	£1,310.00
Flintshire	10513	7177	£518,180.00	21	19	£3,310.00
Gwynedd	8050	5208	£370,635.18	46	45	£6,280.00
Isle of Anglesey	3875	2633	£189,970.00	18	17	£2,810.00
Merthyr Tydfil	11495	7365	£506,580.00	6	4	£280.00
Monmouthshire	3393	2227	£154,512.30	6	6	£960.00
Neath Port Talbot	15945	10654	£742,550.00	32	30	£2,820.00
Newport	23654	15336	£1,072,694.17	1		
Pembrokeshire	6492	4299	£316,299.00	80	72	£13,680.00
Powys	4009	2669	£199,912.00	106	97	£21,730.00
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	30127	19316	£1,340,117.88	1	1	£250.00
Swansea	23559	15788	£1,079,169.10	6	5	£890.00
Torfaen	10152	7045	£500,500.00	66	59	£4,850.00
Vale of Glamorgan	10353	7033	£500,040.00	3	3	£570.00
Wrexham	15845	10528	£767,525.00	9	8	£920.00
TOTAL	292942	192925	£13,597,278.65	754	677	£119,700.00

Annex D - Discretionary Assistance Fund - Emergency Assistance Payments

Number of households that have received 2, 3, 4 or 5 Emergency Assistance Payments in 2020, 2021 and to date in 2022.

Year	2 Paid	3 Paid	4 Paid	5 Paid
2020	13732	10462	7657	12534
2021	20572	18577	8491	7919
2022	26451	17786	6750	3535