



Social Security Scotland Statistics

Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics: Winter 2020/2021

Frequency of publications

The next publication, covering Child Winter Heating Assistance for Winter 2021/2022 will be released in 2022.

Under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹ we publish a timetable of statistical releases for the twelve months ahead².

¹ The Code of Practice is found online at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

² The forthcoming publication timetable is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/03/18798>

Introduction

This publication provides information on recipients of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments in winter 2020/2021. It covers payments made from November 2020 to 17 March 2021.

Child Winter Heating Assistance is an automatic payment of £200 for children and young people under 18 who get the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance for children. Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced in November 2020 by Social Security Scotland. To be eligible, children and young people must be in receipt of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance for at least one day in the qualifying week, which in 2020 was the week beginning Monday 21 September. The [Background Note](#) has further detail on eligibility.

All tables and charts relating to this publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#childwinterheatingassistance>.

The statistics for Child Winter Heating Assistance are being published as experimental statistics, which are defined in the Code of Practice for Statistics as "new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage." These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority, so have not been designated as National Statistics³.

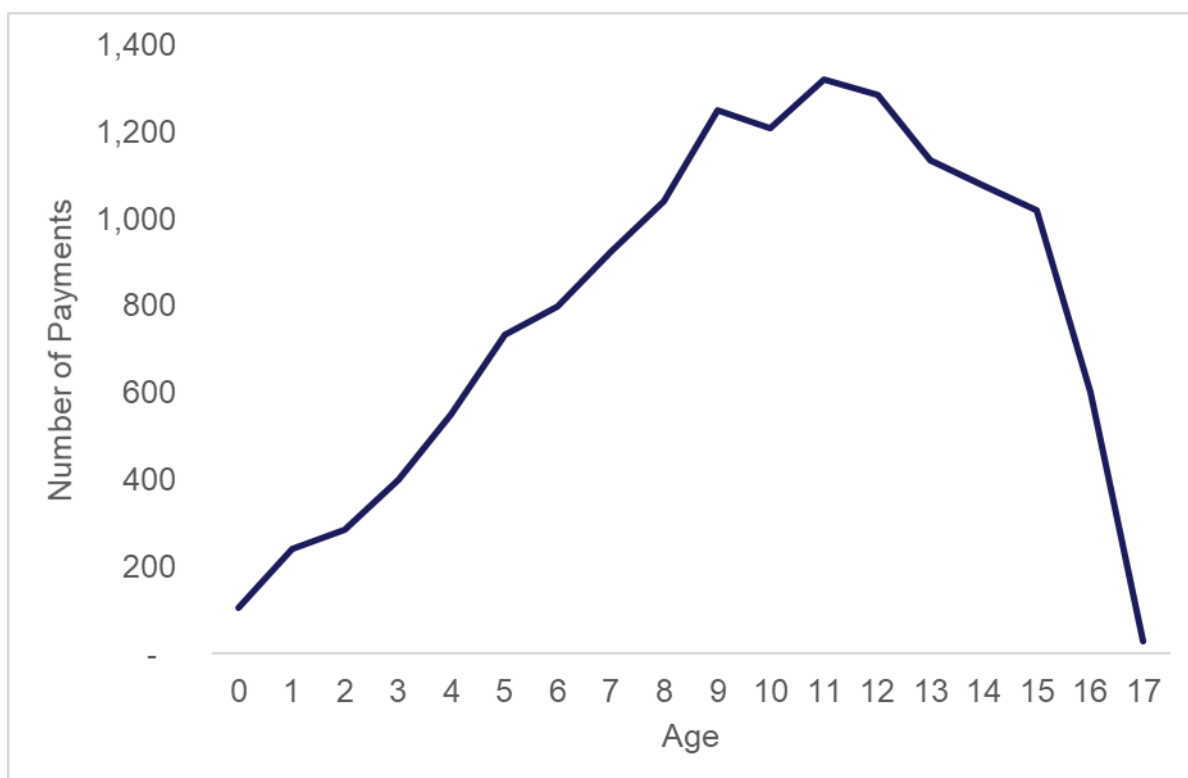
³ For more information on experimental statistics please see:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/experimental-statistics-official-statistics-in-development/>

Main points

- 14,015 Child Winter Heating Assistance payments were made in winter 2020/2021, with a total value of £2.8 million **[Table 1]**.
- The number of children in receipt increases from age 0 to age 8, with two thirds of payments being for children aged 8 to 15 **[Table 1, Chart 1]**. Above this, the number of young people drops, with only 630 (4%) aged 16 or 17. These are young people that have turned 16 on or after 1 September 2020 and therefore stayed in receipt of Disability Living Allowance, rather than being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment. The [background note](#) has further information about eligibility for 16 and 17 year olds.

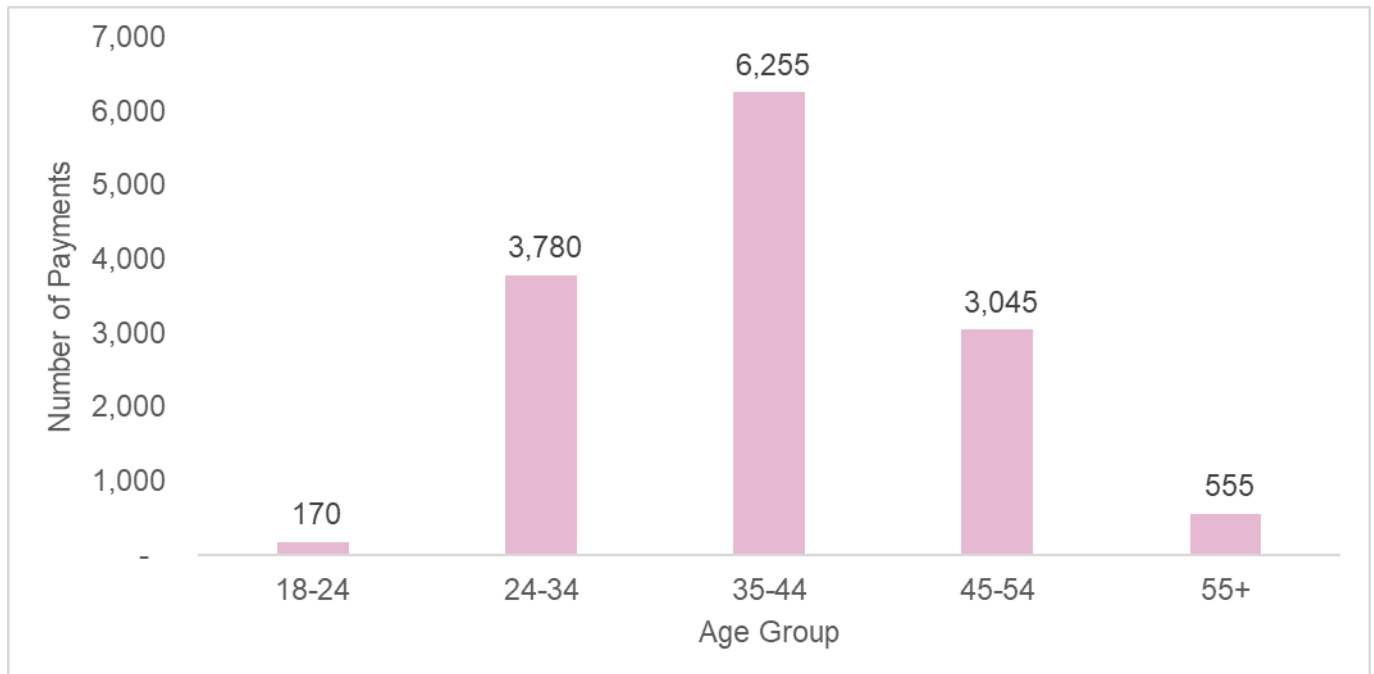
Chart 1: Number of payments by age of child or young person



- Just over two thirds of children or young people in receipt were male (9,495, 68%) and under a third were female (4,190, 30%) **[Table 2]**. Sex is unknown for a small proportion of children or young people (330, 2%) as described in the [background note](#).
- Payments were received by at least 13,175 different recipients such as parents, guardians or appointees – types of recipient are described further in the [background note](#). Of these, 690 (5%) received more than one payment **[Table 3]**. There were an additional 115 payments made where recipient National Insurance Number was missing. It is not possible to determine whether or not these were an additional 115 different individuals.

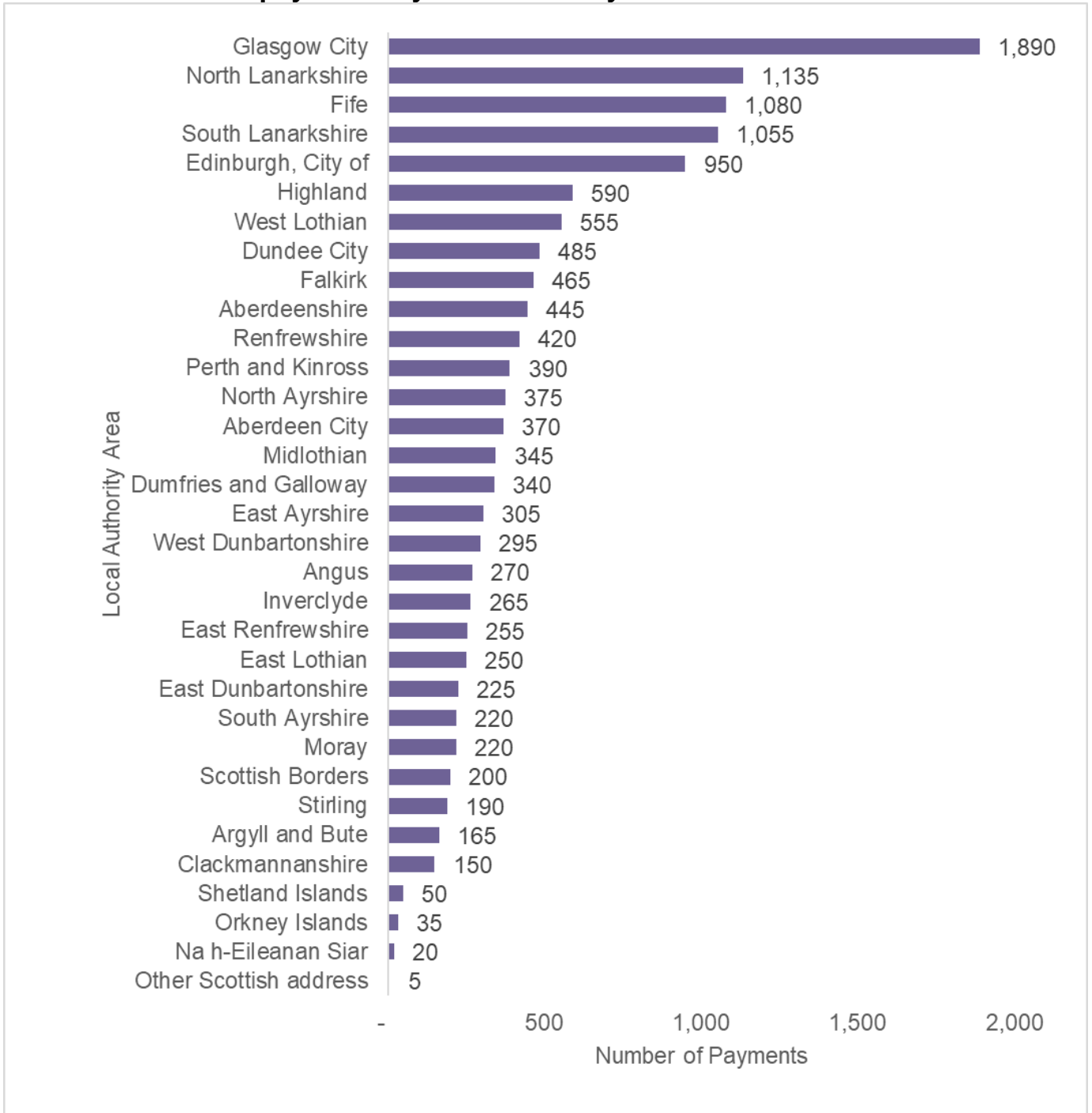
- Around 45% of recipients were aged 35-44, with 93% aged 24-54 [Table 4, Chart 2]. This is as expected given that many recipients will be parents or guardians of children aged 8 to 15.

Chart 2: Number of payments by age of recipient



- The local authorities with the greatest numbers of payments were Glasgow City (1,890, 13% per cent), North Lanarkshire (1,135, 8%), Fife (1,080, 8%) and South Lanarkshire (1,055, 8%) [Table 5, Chart 3]. A small number of payments were for children or young people that could not be matched to a local authority (5, 0%).

Chart 3: Number of payments by local authority area



Background to Child Winter Heating

Assistance

Child Winter Heating Assistance was introduced in November 2020 by Social Security Scotland. It is a payment of £200 for children and young people under 18 who:

- get the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance for children
- are resident in Scotland (or living in Switzerland or a European Economic Area (EEA) country specified in the Schedule of the Winter Heating Assistance for Children and Young People (Scotland) Regulations (2020)) and have a genuine and sufficient link to Scotland).

To get the payment they must meet the eligibility criteria on at least one day in the third full week of September (called the "qualifying week"). In 2020, the qualifying week began on Monday 21 September. If a child or young person usually gets the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance but was not being paid in the qualifying week due to staying in residential care, they will still get Child Winter Heating Assistance. If there is more than one child or young person in a household who qualifies, there will be a payment for each of them.

The majority of Child Winter Heating Assistance payments are made automatically without requiring an application. In limited circumstances clients may also apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance. This could apply for example when a child or young person no longer lives in Scotland, but has a link to Scotland, for example that they, or their parent or guardian, have spent a significant part of their life in Scotland. Clients may also need to apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance if they receive a backdated Disability Living Allowance award for the qualifying week. In these circumstances clients may apply by phone or by completing a paper form.

People receiving Child Winter Heating Assistance payments can include:

- young people aged 16 and 17 who manage their own money
- someone with parental rights and responsibilities (e.g. parents, guardians)
- an appointee – either a personal acting body (someone who acts on behalf of an individual e.g. an informal kinship carer) or a corporate acting body (an organisation that acts on behalf of the child or young person e.g. a solicitor, local authority or third sector organisation)

In this publication we have referred to any person receiving a Child Winter Heating Assistance payment as a 'recipient'.

Disability Living Allowance for children

From 1 April 2020, executive competence for Disability Living Allowance for children was transferred from DWP to Social Security Scotland. There is a transitional period during which DWP will continue to administer Disability Living Allowance on Social Security Scotland's behalf.

Disability Living Allowance for children may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16 and has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. They must have had these difficulties for at least 3 months and expect them to last for at least 6 months. If they have a terminal illness that means they are unlikely to live for more than six months, they do not need to have had these difficulties for 3 months. Children may qualify for one or both components – the care component and the mobility component. The highest rate of the care component applies where the child needs help or supervision throughout both day and night, or if they're terminally ill.

Disability Living Allowance for children will be replaced with Child Disability Payment in Scotland, with new applications accepted from summer 2021. For Child Disability Payment, eligibility will be extended from 16 years to 18 years for those already in receipt of assistance before turning 16. In preparation for this, young people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children in Scotland, who turn 16 on or after 1 September 2020, are not being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment at age 16, but instead have remained in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children. These young people are eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance.

About the data

How data is collected

DWP runs a scan of the information they hold on those in payment of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance during the qualifying week. DWP then securely transfers the necessary data to Social Security Scotland to allow them to make Child Winter Heating Assistance payments. Future scans will not include details of children or young people whose award was backdated to previous years, only children or young people eligible at the point of the scan.

A small number of clients may also apply for Child Winter Heating Assistance separately through a paper form or by telephone. This includes clients that were not included in the DWP scan and are making backdated applications for Child Winter Heating Assistance.

Child Winter Heating Assistance cases and payments are managed through the Social Security Scotland case management system. A cut of data was extracted from the case management system on 18 March 2021. This includes information about each case that has been created since the introduction of Child Winter Heating Assistance in November 2020 to 17 March 2021. It is not currently possible to distinguish automatic payments based on details sent from DWP from payments made as the result of separate applications received by Social Security Scotland.

Data quality

Payments

This publication presents data for Child Winter Heating Assistance cases where a payment value had been recorded on the case management system by 17 March 2021. This accounts for 98% of the cases that were on the case management system at this date. A recorded payment value indicates that a child or young person had been found to be eligible, and that an instruction had been sent to Social Security Scotland finance to make a payment. The majority of recipients were paid in December 2020, and therefore most recipients will have received payments by 17 March 2021. However, there can be a delay before payments are issued, and it can take up to four working days for payments to reach recipients' accounts once issued, so it is possible that a small number of payments had not been received by this date.

The remaining 2% of cases that are not included in this publication may not have had payment values for a variety of reasons, for example, (i) the child or young person was found to be ineligible, (ii) Social Security Scotland needs further evidence, or (iii) the case was created in error and a payment will never be issued for that case.

Missing and duplicate information

The data comes from 100% data cut of the Child Winter Heating Assistance cases on the Social Security Scotland case management system. National Insurance Number and child reference number are 'hashed', or turned into a string of letters and numbers which analysts cannot use to identify people, but can be used as a

unique anonymous reference for clients. Information about child reference number, date of birth and postcode was complete for all cases. However, information about adult National Insurance Number, date of birth and postcode is missing for around 1% of cases.

Age

Age of children or young people and recipients is based on age at the start of the qualifying week. In a small number of cases age band is 'unknown'. This is either due to missing date of birth information or an error in date of birth (e.g. recipient date of birth recorded in place of child date of birth).

Sex

Information on sex of the child or young person has been taken from the data transferred by DWP rather than Social Security Scotland's case management system. Information has been matched based on child or young person date of birth and postcode. Sex information is missing for 2% of payments due to non-matching. This may be for example where applications have been received directly by Social Security Scotland, or where information has been changed on Social Security Scotland's case management system due to correction of errors or changes of circumstances since the DWP scan was carried out.

Local Authority

Payments are assigned to local authority by the residential postcode of the child or young person, using a Scottish Government lookup file. A small number of payments could not be matched to local authority due to their supplied postcodes not matching the lookup file, however these have been identified as Scottish postcodes based on the postcode area. There were no postcodes that did not match to the lookup file that had non-Scottish postcode areas.

Multiple children

Recipients that received payments for more than one child or young person have been identified based on hashed National Insurance Number. Recipients with missing National Insurance Number have been excluded from this analysis.

Rounding

Figures have been rounded to the nearest five payments for disclosure control.

Comparisons between Child Winter Heating Assistance and Disability Living Allowance statistics

The eligibility for Child Winter Heating Assistance is dependent on a child being in receipt of the highest rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance. The data is therefore similar to the Disability Living Allowance statistics for children in Scotland published on StatXplore by DWP at: <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>. However, there are a number of differences between these two sets of data:

- Disability Living Allowance is a rolling payment and data is available for the caseload as at the end of February, May, August and November, published with a six month lag. Child Winter Heating Assistance is not a rolling payment – it is

paid once a year to children or young people that were eligible in the third full week of September, and data will be published after payments are made once a year.

- There are two Disability Living Allowance datasets, covering 'in payment' only, and all those 'with entitlement'. Child Winter Heating Assistance eligibility is based on children being in payment of Disability Living Allowance for children, with the exception of children whose payments have stopped because they are in a care home, who remain eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance.
- Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics could include children that are eligible because they have a link to Scotland, but are not residing in Scotland. Disability Living Allowance for children statistics for Scotland will only include children and young people ordinarily resident in Scotland, based on address history.
- Disability Living Allowance for children is being replaced in Scotland by Child Disability Payment. For Child Disability Payment, eligibility will be extended from 16 years to 18 years for those already in receipt of assistance before turning 16. Children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children in Scotland who turn 16 on or after 1 September 2020 are not being invited to apply for Personal Independence Payment at age 16, but will remain in receipt of Child Disability Living Allowance. These young people are eligible for Child Winter Heating Assistance. Child Winter Heating Assistance statistics therefore include young people aged 16 and 17. While Disability Living Allowance statistics on StatXplore will include these 16 and 17 year olds, they are classed as 'Working age' rather than 'Child'.

Related Social Security Scotland publications

Statistics published by Social Security Scotland can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/>

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

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e-mail: statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through statistics.gov.scot

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#childwinterheatingassistance>

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact MI@socialsecurity.gov.scot for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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