to residents outside the UK but within the EEA and Switzerland
Background

You should read this leaflet with leaflet WFPL1 Your guide to Winter Fuel Payments 2005/2006. Leaflet WFPL1 gives more information about Winter Fuel Payments and tells you about the rules for getting them in the UK.

In some circumstances, Winter Fuel Payments can be made to people who live outside the UK but within the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

If you have received or applied for a Winter Fuel Payment in the UK, you may be able to continue to receive your Winter Fuel Payments if you move to another EEA country or Switzerland. The Winter Fuel Payment scheme began in 1998 and the first qualifying week was 5 to 11 January 1998. This means that if you left the UK before 5 January 1998, you will not be able to claim a Winter Fuel Payment outside the UK. A list of EEA countries and notes on Switzerland are on page 9.
Claiming a Winter Fuel Payment for 2005/2006

You may be able to receive a Winter Fuel Payment outside the UK this year if you have previously qualified for a payment in the UK and during the qualifying week of 19 to 25 September 2005 you:

- live in another EEA country. Your nationality does not affect your entitlement unless you live in:
  - Denmark where you must be an EEA or Swiss national; or
  - Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway where you must be an EEA national; or
- live in Switzerland where you must be a:
  - Swiss national; or
  - national of a country that was an EU member state before May 2004 (see page 9 for details).

You do not qualify if you are in custody serving a sentence imposed by a court during the week of 19 to 25 September 2005.
If you have previously qualified for a payment and leave the UK permanently during the qualifying week or after 25 September 2005

You should receive your Winter Fuel Payment, unless you are in an excluded group. But you should tell us when you do leave the UK, to make sure that we know where to send your payment for either this year or in future years.

You must satisfy the conditions to continue to receive a Winter Fuel Payment outside the UK. These conditions are given on pages 2 and 3.

If you think you are eligible to continue to receive your payment outside the UK, you should contact the Winter Fuel Payment Centre (WFPC) (see page 8). This will help us to pay you correctly. We may ask you to complete a claim form or ask you for further information.

Please note that if you have not received or applied for a Winter Fuel Payment before, you should read leaflet WFPL1 Your guide to Winter Fuel Payments 2005/2006.
Claiming for past years

If you left the UK after qualifying for a Winter Fuel Payment, and you normally live (or, in the year you are claiming for, you lived) in another EEA country outside the UK, you may be able to get Winter Fuel Payments for past years.

There are no time limits for claiming for the years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. Time limits can apply for a Winter Fuel Payment for 2000/2001 onwards. The qualifying weeks for each year are given on page 10, and remember that you must satisfy the conditions on pages 2 and 3 in the qualifying week of each year that you wish to claim for.

Winter Fuel Payments became available at different times in different countries and sometimes depended on other factors, including your nationality. A quick guide is:

From 1998/1999
- In July 2002 payments became available with effect from the winter of 1998/1999 to eligible EEA nationals living in other EEA countries who had previously qualified for payment in the UK.

From 2000/2001
- People in custody during the qualifying week, serving a sentence imposed by a court, were no longer entitled to a payment.
From 2002/2003
- Payments were extended to Switzerland for EU and Swiss nationals only.
- Swiss nationals could receive payments in EU countries.

From 2003/2004
- Payments were extended to non-EEA nationals in all EU countries except Denmark.

From 2004/2005
- Payments are available in the ten new EU states to all nationals.
- Payments do not extend to nationals of the ten new EU states living in Switzerland.

If you previously received or claimed a Winter Fuel Payment as a UK resident (even if you claimed and were turned down), you should only complete the WFP2 claim form for EEA residents.

If you have not previously received or claimed a Winter Fuel Payment as a UK resident, you should complete the WFP1R claim form for UK residents (for the years you lived in the UK) and the WFP2 claim form for EEA residents.

But please note that time limits apply for claiming.
Once we have paid you for previous years, you will normally be automatically paid for the current year, which is 2005/2006, and for future years. But we may ask you to complete a claim form in some circumstances. If you do not get a payment by the end of January 2006, please contact the WFPC (see page 8).

If you live outside the UK now – claiming for the current year 2005/2006

If you have received all your payments for past years in the UK and wish to be paid for this year, you should contact the WFPC (see page 8). We may need to write to you for further information or ask you to complete a claim form.

Age-Related Payments 2005

During winter 2005/2006 the Government is paying two Age-Related Payments. The first is a payment of up to £200 to eligible households with someone aged 65 or over, who are not receiving the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit, to help with Council Tax bills.

People living in another EEA country or Switzerland may be eligible for the Age-Related Payment of up to £200 provided they qualified for the one-off payment to people aged 70 or over during winter 2004/2005 and they are eligible.
The second Age-Related Payment is a payment of £50 to households with someone aged 70 or over in receipt of the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit to help with additional living expenses.

The £50 payment will not be available to people living in another EEA country or Switzerland as, to be eligible, a person has to be in receipt of the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit. This is not payable to people living outside the UK.

**Claim forms and further information**

Claim forms and further information are available:

- at [www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel](http://www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel);
- by writing to: Winter Fuel Payment Centre (WFPC)
  Southgate House
  Cardiff Central
  Royal Mail
  Cardiff CF91 1ZH
  UK;
- by faxing the WFPC on +44 29 2042 8676 (029 2042 8676 in the UK); or
- by phoning the WFPC on +44 29 2042 8635 (029 2042 8635 in the UK).

*Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm UK time.*

Exclusions and time limits apply in some circumstances. For advice on these you should contact the WFPC.
Definitions used in this leaflet

The United Kingdom (UK)
The UK comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It does not include the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

The European Union (EU)
The EU comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and the UK. In May 2004, ten further countries joined the EU – Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The European Economic Area (EEA)
The EEA comprises all 25 EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, who are not members of the EU.

Gibraltar
For Winter Fuel Payment purposes, Gibraltar is treated as a member of the EU.

Switzerland
Switzerland is not a member of the EEA, but signed an agreement with EU countries in June 2002 to apply EU rules on social security. The agreement does not currently extend to the ten countries that joined the EU in May 2004 nor the EEA countries of Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway.
### The qualifying weeks

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<tr>
<th>Winter of</th>
<th>Qualifying week</th>
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<tr>
<td>1997/1998</td>
<td>5 to 11 January 1998 (payable to UK residents only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998/1999</td>
<td>9 to 15 November 1998</td>
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<td>1999/2000</td>
<td>20 to 26 September 1999</td>
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<td>2000/2001</td>
<td>18 to 24 September 2000</td>
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<td>2001/2002</td>
<td>17 to 23 September 2001</td>
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<td>2002/2003</td>
<td>16 to 22 September 2002</td>
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<td>2003/2004</td>
<td>15 to 21 September 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004/2005</td>
<td>20 to 26 September 2004</td>
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<td>2005/2006</td>
<td>19 to 25 September 2005</td>
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You can also get this leaflet in Welsh, in Braille, in large print and on audio cassette. These can be ordered directly by calling 0845 601 1562 (textphone: 0845 601 1107). Lines are open seven days a week between 7am and 11pm. Calls are charged at local rates.

You can also get them from Jobcentre Plus offices, Jobcentres or social security offices. For your nearest office look under Jobcentre Plus, Jobcentre or social security office in the phone book.

You can get more information on Winter Fuel Payments from our website www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel, one of the offices mentioned above, or by contacting WFPC (see page 8). You can also read, download or order any of the Winter Fuel Payments communication products at this website.