

23 October 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: EIR 949

Your request for information received on 01 October 2025 has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Request

When was the level of income set for the Warm Home Scheme?

Has the level of income kept pace with inflation and external costs?

When will the level be reviewed taking into consideration the rise in energy prices and general cost of living?

Why do 2 pensioners on State Pension Only...Exceed the threshold for qualifying for warm homes for a 45 year old house?

Our response

- ***When was the level of income set for the Warm Home Scheme?***

The Affordable Warmth Scheme's current income threshold was set in 2021 through the Domestic Energy Efficiency Grants (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Please see [The Domestic Energy Efficiency Grants \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2021](#)

- ***Has the level of income kept pace with inflation and external costs?***

The Affordable Warmth Scheme's current income threshold is a matter of legislation.

- ***When will the level be reviewed taking into consideration the rise in energy prices and general cost of living?***

This is for the Department for Communities to consider.

- ***Why do two pensioners on State Pension Only...Exceed the threshold for qualifying for warm homes for a 45-year-old house?***

The Affordable Warmth Scheme's current gross household income threshold is £23,000.

The full rate of new State Pension is £230.25 per week.

Assuming a two-person household only receives the full new State Pension, there is no further gross household income to be included, and any exclusions to income have been applied then:

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{State Pension £230.25 pw} & \times & 52-\text{weeks} & = & \text{£11,973 per year} \\ & \times & 2 \text{ people} & = & \text{£23,946 per year} \end{array}$$

A household with two pensioners receiving state pension therefore breaches the maximum income threshold of £23,000.

There is no consideration of the age of a dwelling when determining eligibility related to income.

This concludes our response.