

National Fuel Scheme

Fuel Allowance

The Fuel Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home. It is paid to people who are dependent on long-term social welfare payments and who are unable to provide for their own heating needs. Fuel Allowance is paid to only one person in any household

Entitlement to Fuel Allowance

The Fuel Allowance is a means-tested payment and you can only get it if you live either alone or with certain categories of people (for example, a dependent spouse, civil partner or cohabitant or a dependent child). If you are already getting a means-tested payment from this Department, you will satisfy the means test for Fuel Allowance, unless you are also getting a half-rate PRSI-based payment, such as Illness Benefit, Injury Benefit or Jobseeker's Benefit.

The means test for Fuel Allowance is linked to the maximum rate of payment of State Pension (Contributory) (SPC). If your total weekly means are no more than €100 over the maximum rate of SPC, you may be eligible for Fuel Allowance. In other words, the current maximum rate of SPC is €230.30, so if your total weekly means, including your social welfare payment, is less than €330.30, you may qualify for Fuel Allowance.

Fuel Allowance payment period

Following measures introduced in Budget 2012, Fuel Allowance will be paid up to and including the week ending Friday 6th April 2012.

The 2012/2013 fuel season will be of 26 weeks duration.

Rate of Fuel Allowance

€20 Fuel Allowance is paid each week for the duration of the fuel season.

For more information, contact your local Citizens Information Centre or visit www.welfare.ie

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What change was implemented in Budget 2012?

A. The period that Fuel Allowance is paid (the 'fuel season') was reduced from 32 to 26 weeks by Budget 2012. The fuel season for 2012/2013 will last 26 weeks, from Monday 8th October 2012 to Friday 5th April 2013.

Q. How does this affect the current fuel season (2011/2012)?

A. The Fuel Allowance payments will cease from Friday 6th April 2012.

Q. I live alone and get a long-term social welfare payment but have no other income – am I entitled to Fuel Allowance?

A. Yes, you are entitled to Fuel Allowance.

Q. I live alone and get €230.30 State Pension (Contributory) as well as €99 of a private pension – am I entitled to Fuel Allowance?

A. Yes, because your weekly income is less than €330.30.

Q. I live alone and get €230.30 State Pension (Contributory) as well as €150 of a private pension – am I entitled to Fuel Allowance?

A. No, because your weekly income is greater than €330.30.

Q. I live with my son or daughter who is in full-time employment. I get €230.30 State Pension (Contributory) but have no other income – am I entitled to Fuel Allowance?

A. No. If a person living with you is in full-time employment, you are not entitled to Fuel Allowance.

Q. How do I apply for Fuel Allowance?

A. Complete the NFS1 application form and send it to the area of the Department dealing with your pension or allowance payment.

If you are not getting a payment from this Department or if you are getting a payment from another country, send the completed form to: National Fuel Scheme, Social Welfare Services, College Road, Sligo. The application form and further information is available on the Department's website www.welfare.ie.

For more information, contact your local Citizens Information Centre or visit www.welfare.ie