

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 01 November 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	Household Support Fund (October 2022 – March 2023)		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All		
<b>Author:</b> Matthew Kendall	<b>Job title:</b> Benefits Technical Manager		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Deputy Mayor/Cabinet member for City Economy, Finance and Performance, Cllr Cheney	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Stephen Peacock		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> Other			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member			
<b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To approve the proposed allocation of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) £4m Household Support Fund.			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<p>In May 2022, the Chancellor announced that there will be a third round of the Household Support Fund to cover the period from October 2022 to March 2023, with a further £500 million (£421m for England) being released to councils, to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy and water bills, phone, broadband and clothing and in exceptional cases, housing costs. This is for the period of October 2022 to March 2023.</p> <p>This funding to councils on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, who will administer the scheme and provide direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the increase in the cost of living. Funding has been confirmed at £4,039,965.</p> <p>The period of the grant is from October 2022 to March 2023 and payment is made to the council in arrears, based on two management information (MI) returns in January and April 2023 and the amounts committed at the point of their return. Actual payments will be credited in February/March 2023 and June/July 2023 respectively.</p> <p>The eligibility criteria are contained in 3.2 of the policy in appendix A, but the main difference associated with this third round of funding, is that the grant is no longer ringfenced to any particular cohort of people. This differs to previous grants, where certain percentage spend was linked to households with children and/or pensioners. Any grant should predominately be used to assist households with the costs of; food, gas/electricity, water, phone/broadband, essential household items (e.g. white goods, beds/beddings, clothing, baby/sanitary products) and housing costs (in exceptional circumstance).</p> <p>Details regarding how any fund may be implemented are contained within 3.3 of the policy in appendix A as well as proposed/agreed spend under section 4. Note that not all aspects of proposed spend have been included and subsequently there is a 'residual' amount of £185,170 to be agreed by January 2023, in order to potentially add to existing agreed priorities within the policy, and/or other initiatives, if it is believed they have not been identified to date. These will be further agreed by the Director Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Deputy Mayor; City Economy Finance and Performance.</p>			

Due to lack of notice of the final grant award and guidance notes given by government and the impending October school holidays at this time, an officer executive decision was taken on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 to use £331k of the £4m grant, to assist 22,076 Free School Meal/Pupil Premium children during the October half term, by awarding a £15 voucher in respect of each child. The spend accounts for £331,140 of the total allocation, for this week. This commitment is in line with previous support provided to these children for most school holidays since October 2020, by Bristol City Council.

The contract supplier (Hawk Incentives) has been chosen using the CSS framework and is a continuation of an existing and well-established good quality, procurement compliant route.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

**That Cabinet:**

1. Note the Officer Executive Decision (OED) taken on 21<sup>st</sup> September to spend £331k of the Household Support Fund in respect of Free School Meals food vouchers for October 2022 school holidays.
2. Approve the Household Support Fund Policy October 2022 – March 2023 and change of budget to reflect this funding.
3. Authorise the Director Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Deputy Mayor; City Economy Finance and Performance to take all steps required to accept and spend (including procuring and awarding contracts over £500k) the remaining £3.7m of the extended allocation of the DWP Household Support Fund as outlined in Household Support Fund Policy October 2022 – March 2023.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

The proposed spend and allocation of the Hardship Support Fund aligns to the corporate strategy in which the vision is for Bristol to be a City;

1. In which everyone benefits from the city’s success and no-one is left behind.
2. Where people have access to decent jobs and to affordable homes.
3. In which services and opportunities are accessible.
4. Where life chances and health are not determined by wealth and background.

This is through providing support to households who are on a low income, so that levels of poverty are reduced with the benefits to health and opportunities that this brings.

**City Benefits:**

Additional levels of support to households on a low income who have been impacted by the cost of living crisis and those who have suffered a loss of income as a result of the current economic circumstances.

**Consultation Details:** None at present.

**Background Documents:**

- [Nearly nine million grants from first round of Household Support Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Household Support Fund 2022 May Cabinet Final.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://bristol.gov.uk)
- [Food vouchers OED for Free School Meals children \(October 2022 holidays\)](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£4,039,965	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	15461 (DWP Funded in full)
<b>Capital Cost</b>	NA	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	NA
<b>One off cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:
<p><b>1. Finance Advice:</b> Bristol City Council has been allocated £4.04m under the Household Support Fund Grant to provide support to local authorities in England to provide support to households, particularly those including children and pensioners, who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional cases of genuine emergency) to help them with significantly rising living costs.</p> <p>An emergency decision was taken to assist 22,076 Free School Meal/Pupil Premium children during the October half term, by awarding a £15 voucher in respect of each child. i.e. an expenditure amount of £331k.</p> <p>This paper sets out the proposals for the spend of the remaining £3.7m, which if agreed to will mean that the full amount of the grant received will have been committed.</p> <p>This spend is fully met from the grant received and places no additional financial burden on the council.</p> <p><b>Finance Business Partner:</b> Olubunmi Kupoluyi, Finance Business Partner (Resources Division), 10 October 2022</p>
<p><b>2. Legal Advice:</b> The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.</p> <p><b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 3 October 2022</p>
<p><b>3. Implications on IT:</b> I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.</p> <p><b>IT Team Leader:</b> Alex Simpson – Senior Solution Architect 06/10/2022</p>
<p><b>4. HR Advice:</b> No HR implications evident</p> <p><b>HR Partner:</b> Bryn Williams HR Business Partner 03/10/2022</p>

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Graham Clapp (deputising for Denise Murray)	12/10/2022
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Deputy Mayor/Cabinet member for City Economy, Finance and Performance, Cllr Cheney	17/10/2022
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	10/10/2022

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Household Support Fund Policy October 2022 – March 2023</li> <li>Household Support Fund 01 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 Final allocations, and</li> <li>Household Support Fund (1 April 2022 – 30 September 2022): – DWP Guidance</li> </ul>	
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – <a href="#">Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</a></b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1. Background

In May 2022, the Chancellor announced that there will be a third round of the Household Support Fund to cover the period from October 2022 to March 2023, with a further £500 million (£421m for England) being released to councils, to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy and water bills, phone, broadband and clothing and in exceptional cases, housing costs. This is for the period of October 2022 to March 2023.

This funding to councils on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is made under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, who will administer the scheme and provide direct assistance to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the increase in the cost of living.

### 2. Period Covered

This further extension to the Hardship Support Fund will enable Bristol City Council to provide support to vulnerable households and individuals from 01 October 2022 to 30 March 2023.

### 3. Hardship Support Fund

#### 3.1 Funding available

Bristol City Council will receive a grant of £4,039,965 in arrears and based on two management information (MI) returns in January and April 2023 and the amounts committed at the point of their return. No carry over is allowed from previous funding from April to September 2022.

#### 3.2 Eligibility Criteria

- No monies are no longer ringfenced to any proportion of funding for any particular cohort of people.
- Local authorities need to consider those groups who may not have benefitted from any of the recent cost of living support.
- Can be used to assist households with the costs of; food, gas/electricity, water, phone/broadband, essential household items (e.g. white goods, beds/bedding, clothing, baby/sanitary products) and housing costs (in exceptional circumstance)
- No application is needed if households requiring assistance can be determined in advance.
- Every local authority must, at least in part, have an application basis grant provision i.e. residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support
- Individuals, regardless of their immigration status are eligible to ensure a basic safety net of support
- Cannot be used for advice or mortgage related costs.

#### 3.3 Implementation of fund

- Can be used for existing schemes and other support which deliver the same outcomes and where the need is greatest, but need to be mindful of possible funding overlaps
- Can be provided in cash or vouchers.
- Distribution of grants can be made using the voluntary/third sector.

- A proportion of the funds can be used for administration; however these costs should be kept to a minimum, in order to maximise the overarching funds available to support our most vulnerable citizens. Due to the approach being adopted in the deployment of these funds, the administration cost is expected to be in the region of £200,000

### 3.4 Reporting structure

All public authorities must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty and MI is required to be kept and maintained by the relevant organisations and provided to the Council to report on delivery of agreed objectives and actual spend.

### 3.5 Receipt of funds

The grant will be paid in arrears and based on MI returns in January and April 2023. Actual payments will be credited in February/March 2023 and June/July 2023 respectively.

## 4. Approved /Proposed Spend

The table below shows the proposed amount of monies to be agreed by Cabinet.

Award	Spend Value	Comments
Targeted support for 2 – 16+ who receive Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium over October 22 school holidays	£330,000	This is for a total of one week at a value of £15 x 22,000 children.  This is an extension of the previous FSM reach. Vouchers will be supplied which allows the recipient to choose which supermarket they wish to use or on fuel bills.
Targeted support for 2 – 16+ who receive Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium over Christmas school holidays	£660,000	This is for a total of two weeks at a value of £15 x 22,000 children.  This is an extension of the previous FSM reach. Vouchers will be supplied which allows the recipient to choose which supermarket they wish to use or on fuel bills.
Targeted support for 2 – 16+ who receive Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium over February 23 school holidays	£330,000	This is for a total of one week at a value of £15 x 22,000 children.  This is an extension of the previous FSM reach. Vouchers will be supplied which allows the recipient to choose which supermarket they wish to use or on fuel bills.
Targeted support for 2 – 16+ who receive Free School Meals and/or Pupil Premium over Easter school holidays	£660,000	This is for a total of two weeks at a value of £15 x 22,000 children.  This is an extension of the previous FSM reach. Vouchers will be supplied which allows the recipient to choose which supermarket they wish to use or on fuel bills.
Targeted support to assist those with No Resource to Public Funds (including	£100,000	This is being administered by direct award using the existing provisions via Housing Options to the Red Cross.

c500 Syrian/ Afghanistan Refugees and Asylum Seekers households known directly to BCC).		This will assist c250 households at approx. £400 on average, where families are on low incomes and unable to access state benefits and are not being assisted by other existing refugee schemes.
Application based to cover all households not covered by below/above, via the Local Crisis and Prevention Fund	£350,000	Advertised assistance to any low-income household in crisis with food/fuel poverty. Vouchers will be supplied which allows the recipient to choose which supermarket they wish to use or on fuel bills.
Care Leavers and Foster Children payments	£220,000	To assist c100 care leavers and c450 foster children to get vouchers at £400 each, to assist with their food and heating costs. To be administered by Children, Families and Safer Communities Directorate.
Bristol Age UK	£22,000	To provide emergency support to older people who are struggling financially due to the cost-of-living crisis (e.g. high inflation on food, fuel, and housing costs, benefit uprating for 2022 less than half the rate of inflation).
Feeding Bristol	£350,000	Targeted support to assist city wide households in need with food poverty via a variety of solutions.  This includes; supporting existing food pantries, increasing food supply (via FareShare), extending food parcels beyond the HAF programme, allowing Community Groups and Organisations and Welcoming Spaces to access funding for the food support, and ensuring funds assist those most vulnerable.
Working Age CTR recipients not in receipt of DWP Cost of Living payment	£394,800	Award of £400 to 987 CTR working age households who will not receive a DWP Cost of Living grant.
Centre for Sustainable Energy	£237,995	Support at least 740 vulnerable households, who are negatively impacted by rising energy costs, who can't afford to heat their homes over the winter, or who need emergency support to install or repair their heating system.  Eligible households will be low-incomes and have a clear need for assistance to pay their energy bills and stay warm over the winter.
Residual	£185,170	Spend to be agreed by January 2023 by the Director Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Deputy Mayor; City Economy Finance and Performance, in order to potentially add to existing agree priorities within the policy, and/or other initiatives, if it is believed that may not be identified to date.

Administration, procurement communications, and marketing.	£200,000	This is c5% of the total award and to assist with the cost of administration.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,039,965</b>	





## **Household Support Fund No.3 Grant Determination 2022 No 31/6300**

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (“the Secretary of State”), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following Determination:

### **Citation**

1) This Determination may be cited as the Household Support Fund No.3 Grant Determination 2022 No 31/6300.

### **Purpose of the grant**

2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to certain local authorities in England for expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in accordance with the Grant Conditions to provide support to households, who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional cases of genuine emergency), to help them with significantly rising living costs.

### **Determination**

3) The Secretary of State determines as set out in Annex A, the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid.

### **Grant conditions**

4) Pursuant to section 31(3) and 31(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Secretary of State determines that the grant will be paid in respect of the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and subject to the conditions in Annex B.

### **Treasury consent**

5) Before making this Determination in relation to the upper tier local authorities in England, the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

*Donna Ward*

A senior civil servant within the Department for Work and Pensions

30 September 2022

## ANNEX A

### Household Support Fund No.2 Grant FINAL Funding Allocations per County Councils/Unitary Authorities for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

County Councils and Unitary Authorities	DWP allocation of £421 million
Barking and Dagenham	£2,162,051.52
Barnet	£2,455,182.90
Barnsley	£2,351,263.96
Bath and North East Somerset	£966,860.28
Bedford	£1,201,485.00
Bexley	£1,542,309.65
Birmingham	£12,791,135.04
Blackburn with Darwen	£1,618,526.59
Blackpool	£1,745,857.53
Bolton	£2,780,316.57
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£2,653,367.04
Bracknell Forest	£555,468.03
Bradford	£5,694,487.83
Brent	£2,781,222.28
Brighton and Hove	£2,140,360.89
Bristol, City of	£4,039,965.11
Bromley	£1,867,882.58
Buckinghamshire	£2,399,190.54
Bury	£1,534,200.05
Calderdale	£1,833,003.46
Cambridgeshire	£3,581,424.56
Camden	£2,006,931.89
Central Bedfordshire	£1,483,073.82
Cheshire East	£2,203,892.10
Cheshire West and Chester	£2,290,047.45
City of London	£63,080.28
Cornwall	£4,528,569.87

Coventry	£3,224,222.30
Croydon	£3,013,689.49
Cumbria	£3,690,234.69
Darlington	£913,853.75
Derby	£2,224,711.41
Derbyshire	£5,404,080.90
Devon	£5,064,876.12
Doncaster	£2,989,273.08
Dorset	£2,294,941.45
Dudley	£2,625,519.07
Durham	£4,676,099.65
Ealing	£2,658,804.97
East Riding of Yorkshire	£2,061,832.61
East Sussex	£3,896,783.88
Enfield	£2,847,994.64
Essex	£9,436,542.83
Gateshead	£1,836,629.95
Gloucestershire	£3,692,483.14
Greenwich	£2,378,692.91
Hackney	£2,822,258.58
Halton	£1,297,880.42
Hammersmith and Fulham	£1,414,374.97
Hampshire	£7,124,127.25
Haringey	£2,406,671.72
Harrow	£1,476,707.18
Hartlepool	£993,021.25
Havering	£1,648,150.98
Herefordshire	£1,329,601.78
Hertfordshire	£6,172,064.84
Hillingdon	£2,069,342.07
Hounslow	£2,042,396.17
Isle of Wight	£1,131,576.08

Isles of Scilly	£11,130.10
Islington	£2,218,159.62
Kensington and Chelsea	£1,180,369.12
Kent	£11,065,380.80
Kingston upon Hull, City of	£3,038,293.68
Kingston upon Thames	£862,867.15
Kirklees	£3,702,823.27
Knowsley	£1,862,188.67
Lambeth	£2,720,637.01
Lancashire	£9,678,235.22
Leeds	£7,098,648.16
Leicester	£3,429,353.16
Leicestershire	£3,620,038.89
Lewisham	£2,668,537.62
Lincolnshire	£5,464,685.20
Liverpool	£6,054,020.20
Luton	£1,829,274.04
Manchester	£6,453,163.20
Medway	£2,262,463.11
Merton	£1,186,607.26
Middlesbrough	£1,653,614.95
Milton Keynes	£1,792,516.52
Newcastle upon Tyne	£2,898,403.85
Newham	£3,339,194.75
Norfolk	£6,696,806.23
North East Lincolnshire	£1,559,664.65
North Lincolnshire	£1,323,892.77
North Northamptonshire	£2,465,491.77
North Somerset	£1,307,847.79
North Tyneside	£1,609,998.05
North Yorkshire	£3,537,549.92
Northumberland	£2,480,330.00

Nottingham	£3,556,933.83
Nottinghamshire	£5,646,450.03
Oldham	£2,419,369.23
Oxfordshire	£3,361,256.14
Peterborough	£1,824,636.27
Plymouth	£2,294,796.82
Portsmouth	£1,888,214.70
Reading	£1,130,648.94
Redbridge	£1,965,979.20
Redcar and Cleveland	£1,296,381.17
Richmond upon Thames	£836,356.66
Rochdale	£2,337,383.85
Rotherham	£2,489,029.87
Rutland	£157,371.07
Salford	£2,733,899.11
Sandwell	£3,471,442.28
Sefton	£2,435,111.24
Sheffield	£5,203,825.56
Shropshire	£2,088,795.13
Slough	£1,177,691.53
Solihull	£1,408,359.07
Somerset	£3,820,415.56
South Gloucestershire	£1,410,016.31
South Tyneside	£1,484,854.01
Southampton	£2,222,676.23
Southend-on-Sea	£1,413,078.83
Southwark	£2,734,366.02
St. Helens	£1,779,580.89
Staffordshire	£5,506,547.99
Stockport	£2,163,129.71
Stockton-on-Tees	£1,685,873.97
Stoke-on-Trent	£2,686,721.90

Suffolk	£5,106,030.02
Sunderland	£2,673,561.91
Surrey	£5,290,829.72
Sutton	£1,155,788.99
Swindon	£1,515,345.60
Tameside	£2,224,686.33
Telford and Wrekin	£1,514,547.04
Thurrock	£1,295,040.81
Torbay	£1,235,356.81
Tower Hamlets	£2,996,279.40
Trafford	£1,458,074.48
Wakefield	£3,124,926.90
Walsall	£2,819,810.19
Waltham Forest	£2,327,527.60
Wandsworth	£2,069,485.13
Warrington	£1,440,750.42
Warwickshire	£3,472,997.02
West Berkshire	£694,849.63
West Northamptonshire	£2,599,628.73
West Sussex	£4,870,362.11
Westminster	£1,951,507.12
Wigan	£2,818,234.30
Wiltshire	£2,728,656.41
Windsor and Maidenhead	£587,905.21
Wirral	£3,049,345.09
Wokingham	£525,573.35
Wolverhampton	£2,631,877.25
Worcestershire	£3,949,139.19
York	£1,037,906.47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£421,000,000</b>

## **ANNEX B**

### **Grant Conditions**

1. In this Annex:

“the Scheme” means the use by the Authority of as much of the grant money identified in Annex A as it deems necessary to provide support to households who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs (in exceptional circumstances of genuine emergency);

“the Department” means the Department for Work and Pensions;

“the Authority” means any local authority listed in Annex A;

“the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions;

“the Grant Period” means the period of time set out in paragraph 4 of this Grant Determination.

2. The grant is paid to the Authority to support eligible expenditure only (see paragraphs 4 to 7 below); and on the basis overall that the provision of grant funding remains subject to the Secretary of State’s ongoing satisfaction that all grant usage by the Authority complies fully with the relevant conditions.

3. The Authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Department or sources of information and data available to it that may assist in the decision-making regarding the Scheme.

#### **Eligible expenditure**

4. Eligible expenditure means payments made, or committed to, by the Authority or any person acting lawfully on behalf of the Authority, during the Grant Period, under the Scheme.

5. Unless the Secretary of State decides otherwise (for all Authorities or any one Authority), the Authority must determine individual eligibility in its area for assistance under the Scheme and the means by which assistance will be provided (whether directly by the Authority or through a third party) and use the grant monies as follows:

a) the Authority is to ensure that the grant is primarily allocated to support with the costs of energy (for heating, lighting and cooking), food, water (for household purposes, including sewerage) and other essential living needs in accordance with the Scheme guidance;

b) in exceptional circumstances of genuine emergency, the Authority may allocate grant funds to support with housing costs as set out in the Scheme guidance;

c) the Authority is to use best endeavours to facilitate applications for assistance under the Scheme from individuals who are eligible for assistance in their area.

6. If the Authority or any third party incurs any of the following costs, they must be excluded from eligible expenditure:

- a) contributions in kind,
- b) payments for activities of a political or exclusively religious nature,
- c) depreciation, amortisation or impairment of fixed assets,
- d) input VAT reclaimable from HM Revenue & Customs,
- e) interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases,
- f) gifts, other than promotional items with a value of no more than £10 in a year to any one person,
- g) entertaining (entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations), or
- h) statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties,

and, for the avoidance of doubt, the exclusions at a) and f) above do not apply to the provision of direct assistance, including food, to the intended eligible beneficiaries of the Scheme.

7. The Authority must not deliberately incur liabilities for eligible expenditure before there is an operational need for it to do so.

### **Payment arrangements**

8. The grant will be paid in arrears following receipt by the Department of the Statement of Grant Usage described in paragraph 10.

9. If at any time the Authority becomes aware that the payment in arrears will affect the delivery of the Scheme, the Authority must inform the Department as soon as possible. The Secretary of State reserves the right to alter the timing or amount of grant payments accordingly.

### **Statement of Grant Usage**

10. The Authority must prepare a Statement of Grant Usage to be submitted to the Department at a time and in a form directed by the Secretary of State. The Statement of Grant Usage must provide details of eligible expenditure in the Grant Period. The Statement of Grant Usage must be certified by the Authority's Section 151 officer that, to the best of the officer's knowledge, the amounts shown on the Statement are all eligible expenditure and that the grant has been used for the purposes intended.

11. If the Statement of Grant Usage identifies any overpayment of grant, the Authority must, unless offset by the Department in accordance with paragraph 20, repay this amount within 30 days of being asked by the Secretary of State.

12. The Secretary of State may at any time require a validation or audit to be carried out by officers of the Department or an appropriately qualified independent accountant or auditor, on the use of the grant.

### **Progress Report and Management Information Return**



13. The Authority must provide a Progress Report and Management Information Return with the Statement of Grant Usage in a form directed, and subject to any guidance issued by, the Secretary of State.

### **Financial management**

14. The Authority must maintain a sound system of internal governance and financial controls in relation to the grant.

15. If the Authority has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this Determination, it must notify the Department immediately, explain what steps are being taken to investigate the suspicion and keep the Department informed about the progress of the investigation. For these purposes “financial irregularity” includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

### **Records to be kept**

16. The Authority must maintain reliable, accessible and up to date accounting records with an adequate audit trail for all expenditure funded by grant monies under this Determination.

17. The Authority and any person acting on behalf of the Authority must allow:

- a) the Comptroller and Auditor General or appointed representatives, or
- b) the Secretary of State or appointed representatives,

free access at all reasonable times to all documents (including computerised documents and data) and other information as are connected to the grant, or to the purposes for which grant was used, subject to the provisions in paragraph 18.

18. The documents, data and information referred to in paragraph 17 include such which the Secretary of State or the Comptroller and Auditor General may reasonably require for the purposes of ‘spot checking’ administrative costs or significant amounts paid under the Scheme or a financial audit of any department or other public body or for carrying out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any department or other public body has used its resources. The Authority must provide such further explanations as are reasonably required for these purposes.

19. Paragraphs 17 and 18 do not constitute a requirement for the examination, certification or inspection of the accounts of the Authority by the Comptroller and Auditor General under section 6(3) of the National Audit Act 1983. The Secretary of State and Comptroller and Auditor General will seek access in a measured manner to minimise any burden on the Authority and will avoid duplication of effort by seeking and sharing information with local auditors.

### **Breach of Conditions and Recovery of Grant**

20. If the Authority fails to comply with any of these conditions, or if any overpayment or underpayment is made in relation to this grant or any amount is paid in error, or if any of the events set out in paragraph 21 occurs, the Secretary of State may reduce, suspend or withhold grant payments or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the Authority. Such sum as has been

notified will immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State who may set off the sum against any future amount due to the Authority from central government.

21. The events referred to in paragraph 20 are:

- a) the Authority purports to transfer or assign any rights, interests or obligations arising under this Determination without the prior agreement of the Secretary of State,
- b) any information provided in any application for grant monies payable under this Determination, or in any subsequent supporting correspondence is found to be significantly incorrect or incomplete in the opinion of the Secretary of State,
- c) it appears to the Secretary of State that other circumstances have arisen or events have occurred that are likely to significantly affect the Authority's ability to deliver the Scheme,
- d) the Authority's Section 151 officer is unable to provide reasonable assurance that the Statement of Grant Usage, in all material respects, fairly presents the eligible expenditure in the Grant Period in accordance with the definitions and conditions in this Determination, or
- e) the Authority fails to provide the Statement of Grant Usage and a Progress Report and Management Information Return in accordance with the Grant Conditions.

## **Communications**

22. The Authority must, as appropriate and practical, reference that the grant is funded by the Department or UK Government in any publicity material, including online channels and media releases.

23. The Authority must publish, either on their website or by other appropriate means, such information as it considers sufficient to enable the general public to understand the Scheme (including the Authority's eligibility criteria and how the Scheme can be accessed).

# Household Support Fund: Draft Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England (1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023)

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## Introduction

1. £421 million has been made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. This funding covers the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 inclusive. Local authorities (LAs) have discretion on exactly how this funding is used within the scope set out in the accompanying grant determination and this guidance. This guidance sets out the required collaboration between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), LAs, including their delivery partners (such as District Councils as well as any charitable or third-party organisations) to successfully meet the policy intent within the agreed framework. It also provides the framework that Authorities need to work within and the arrangements for distribution of funding and reporting.
2. DWP is providing funding to County Councils and Unitary Authorities (including Metropolitan Councils and London Boroughs), under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, to administer The Fund and provide assistance to households most in need. **Note: County Councils and Unitary Authorities will be referred to as ‘Authorities’ and the Household Support Fund will be referred to as ‘The Fund’ throughout the remainder of this guidance.** Authorities must work together with District Councils to ensure the funding meets its objectives by identifying those most in need.
3. The expectation is that The Fund should be used to support households in the most need; particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need. This includes the Cost of Living Payments set out on 26 May 2022 and the energy support set out on 3 February (enhanced on 26 May 2022), and detailed on [29 July 2022](#) (details on eligibility for these schemes are at **Annex A**). This may include, but is not limited to, people who are entitled to but not claiming qualifying benefits, people who are claiming Housing Benefit (HB) only, people who begin a claim or return to payment of a benefit after the relevant qualifying date as well as people who have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July 2022. There may be groups who are vulnerable to rising prices even though they are supported through these schemes, for example large families or single-income families. It is important to stress that The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.
4. Energy bills may be of particular concern to low income households during the period of The Fund and LAs should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy. Support which can make a quick but sustainable impact on energy costs is particularly encouraged; for example, insulation of hot water tanks, fitting draft excluders to a door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The Fund can also be used to support households with the cost of food and water bills, essential costs related to energy, food and water, and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.
5. Authorities should also consider providing support to disabled people in their area. Disabled people in particular may be facing acute challenges due to the disproportionate impact that rising costs bring for the additional services they need in order to manage their conditions, remain independent and avoid becoming socially isolated. For example, some disabled people may have increased utility bills due to the usage of equipment, aids or adaptations associated with their disability. They may also have additional heating, water or transport costs. Authorities are therefore encouraged to explore ways in which this group may be supported and must

record the total value of awards granted to disabled people in their management information (MI) returns for this grant (see paragraphs 64-68).

6. Authorities have the ability to deliver the scheme through a variety of routes including providing vouchers to households, making direct provision of food or goods, or issuing grants to third parties (with the exception of grants for advice provision). Every area must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis. In other words, residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is flexibility on exactly how this can be run, including through third parties rather than directly by the LA.
7. Authorities have access to DWP's Searchlight portal which provides information on individual citizens' entitlement to (and confirms receipt of) DWP welfare benefits. Since June 2021 we have provided Authorities with information relating to Universal Credit (UC) claims with limited capability for work or earnings below the Free School Meals (FSMs) and free prescription thresholds in their area. In April 2022, DWP established a data share covering people receiving the Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit elements of Pension Credit, as well as for all claimants on income-related (IR) Employment and Support Allowance (ESA IR). Authorities may find this information useful in identifying those most in need.
8. In October 2022, DWP will also introduce a further data share for those who are only in receipt of HB. This group is not eligible for the means-tested Cost of Living Payments unless they are of State Pension age or eligible for a Disability Cost of Living Payment. LAs should consider how they could use this data to provide support to this group.
9. However, support is not restricted only to vulnerable households in receipt of benefits. Therefore, Authorities should also use other sources of information to identify vulnerable households, including advice from professionals who come into contact with vulnerable households such as social workers and Supporting Families keyworkers and housing workers. As paragraph 5 above, Authorities should also have a process to consider applications for support.
10. This guidance applies to Authorities in England only and when finalised should be read in conjunction with the Household Support Fund Grant Determination issued alongside it.

## **Communication**

11. The Authority must, as appropriate and practical, reference that the grant is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions or the UK Government in any publicity material, including online channels and media releases.
12. LAs must make public their plans for The Fund, for example on their Authority website.

## **Objective and key principles**

13. The objective of The Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.
14. Although this is considered an extension to the previous two Household Support Fund schemes, it is a new grant subject to its own grant conditions as is set out in the Grant Determination letter. Any underspends from the previous schemes cannot be carried forward.

15. Funds should be spent or committed before 31 March 2023 and cannot be carried over for future usage. All Authorities are encouraged to ensure, wherever possible, that any vouchers issued are redeemed before the end of The Fund, or shortly thereafter, or consider recycling unused vouchers. However, it is acceptable for vouchers that have been purchased and delivered to households before the end of The Fund to be spent shortly thereafter (see paragraphs 104 to 107 on committed spend).
16. When administering The Fund, Authorities are encouraged to adopt the following principles:
- use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need, taking into account a wide range of information
  - use the funding from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials. Authorities can also use the funding to support households who are struggling to afford wider essentials
    - **Note:** this includes payments made, or committed to, by the Authority or any person acting on behalf of the Authority, from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023
  - in exceptional cases of genuine emergency, the funding can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need, subject to the provisions at paragraph 30
  - work together with District Councils and third parties including, where necessary and appropriate, other local services. This may include social workers, housing and family support services and may incorporate intelligence and data from wider children's social care systems to help identify and support individuals, families and households within the scope of The Fund.
17. When deciding how to help people, Authorities should consider:
- how they plan to provide support to vulnerable households, in other words, paying into bank accounts, use of cash and vouchers, provision of goods
  - any risks associated with these payment methods (see section 'Managing the risk of fraud' at paragraph 107 for further information).

## Working with other organisations

18. Authorities must work collaboratively with District Councils and other organisations in their area who may come into contact with those households who may benefit from this grant. Authorities that do not have the mechanisms in place to administer this grant should consider whether District Councils are better placed to do so on their behalf. Authorities are encouraged to engage with District Councils as quickly as possible to ensure roles, responsibilities and effective arrangements are put in place to deliver The Fund promptly and efficiently.
19. Third party organisations (TPOs) may include but are not limited to:
- registered charities and voluntary organisations
  - schools
  - food banks
  - general practitioners
  - care organisations
20. Where Authorities are working with TPOs, this should be done on an objectively fair, transparent and non-discriminatory basis whilst having regard to the time available to deliver The Fund. As with District Councils, Authorities should make arrangements with any TPOs as quickly as possible.

## Unused funding returned from a TPO

21. Where a TPO returns unused funding after The Fund has ended the Authority can re-issue any returned funding within a reasonable timeframe, but only under the category that the spend was originally reported against. Authorities are able to distribute funding themselves and do not have to go back through the original TPO.
22. For audit purposes, where an Authority re-issues returned TPO funding they must confirm the following by email to [lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk) (copying in their Section 151 Officer):
- the amount that has been returned
  - reason for the return (for example TPO underspend)
  - what the original spend was reported against in their **final** management information (MI) return
  - the intention to spend the total unspent amount against the same category of spend for the same group.

## Establishing eligibility

23. In accordance with their general legal duties, Authorities must have a clear rationale or documented policy/framework outlining their approach, including how they are defining eligibility and how households access The Fund. We expect Authorities to review any existing approach and to have a strong rationale for their targeting so that funding is available to the households who most need it.
24. Authorities have the flexibility within The Fund to identify which vulnerable households are in most need of support and apply their own discretion when identifying eligibility. Rather than focus on one specific vulnerable group, Authorities should use the wide range of data and sources of information at their disposal to identify and provide support to a broad cross section of vulnerable households to prevent escalation of problems. Authorities should ensure that they consider the needs of various households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.
25. Authorities should particularly consider how they can support those vulnerable households who are ineligible for other government support with the cost of living, including the:
- Energy Bills Support Scheme and the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July 2022
  - Council Tax Rebate and the associated £144 million Discretionary Fund
  - Cost of Living Payments for those on means tested benefits
  - £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment
  - One-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment (through the Winter Fuel Payment)
26. The eligibility criteria for the schemes listed in paragraph 24 can be found at **Annex A**. The majority of households in England will receive some form of support from at least one of the above schemes. Authorities should have regard to the fact that receipt of any of the above support should not exclude a resident from receiving support through The Fund in principle and households in receipt of support from these schemes may still be in need. It remains at the discretion of Authorities to establish their local eligibility and identify those most in need in their area.

27. However, the schemes listed in paragraph 24 do not cover everyone and Authorities should consider prioritising those households, who (for example):
- are eligible for but not claiming qualifying benefits
  - become eligible for benefits after the relevant qualifying dates
  - are in receipt of HB only
  - are ordinarily eligible for benefits but who had a nil award in the qualifying period due to, for example, a fluctuation in income
  - have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July 2022
- This list is not exhaustive and there may additionally be households that are vulnerable to rising costs despite being in receipt of this government support with the cost of living.

28. Authorities must operate an application-based service for support to ensure those in need have a route to emergency support. This can be delivered directly by the LA or by a TPO on their behalf. Authorities should establish eligibility criteria for their application service and should communicate with residents to ensure that their scheme and the mechanism for applying is clear and accessible. Authorities could make the entirety of their scheme application-based. However, when an LA chooses to use all or part of this funding for an application based process, they must make sure that this support is clearly advertised to residents. Authorities can also proactively identify households who will benefit from support, as with previous schemes.

29. Where Authorities proactively identify households, they should consider how they can ensure that they are focusing on those in the most need to prevent escalation of problems. There is no requirement for Authorities to undertake a means test or conduct a benefit check unless this specifically forms part of the Authority's local eligibility criteria. However, in relation to housing costs, Authorities must establish whether other forms of support are available to the household, such as Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs).

## **Types of support**

30. Eligible spend includes:

- Energy and water. The Fund should primarily be used to support energy bills for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking, or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders. It can also be used to support water bills including for drinking, washing, cooking, as well as for sanitary purposes and sewerage.
- Food. The Fund can be used to provide support with food, whether in kind or through vouchers or cash.
- Essentials linked to energy and water. The Fund can be used to provide support with essentials linked to energy and water (for example period products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, the purchase of equipment such as fridges, freezers, ovens, slow cookers), in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access energy, food and water. In particular, we encourage LAs to consider supporting households on low incomes to repair or replace white goods and appliances with more energy efficient ones, or to invest in simple energy efficiency measures which will pay back quickly, such as insulating a hot water tank, fitting draft excluders to a front door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The intention of this is to provide sustainable support which could result in both immediate and long-lasting savings for the household.
- Wider essentials. The Fund can be used to support wider essential needs not linked to energy and water should Authorities consider this appropriate in their area. These may include, but are not limited to, support with other bills including broadband or phone bills,



clothing, and essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle, or paying for fuel. This list is not exhaustive.

- Housing costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need, the Fund can be used to support housing costs. Where eligible, ongoing housing support for rent must be provided through the Housing cost element of UC and HB rather than The Fund. In addition, eligibility for DHPs must first be considered before emergency housing support is offered through The Fund. The Authority must also first consider whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).
  - In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, households in receipt of HB, UC, or DHPs can still receive housing cost support through The Fund if it is deemed necessary by their Authority. However, The Fund should not be used to provide housing support on an ongoing basis or to support unsustainable tenancies.
  - Individuals in receipt of some other form of housing support could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund, such as food, energy, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials.
  - The Fund cannot be used to provide mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund (such as energy, food, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.
  - The Fund can exceptionally and in genuine emergency be used to provide support for historic rent arrears built up prior to an existing benefit claim for households already in receipt of UC and HB. This is because these arrears are excluded from the criteria for DHPs. However, support with rent arrears is not the primary intent of the fund and should not be the focus of spend.
- a. Reasonable administrative costs. This includes reasonable costs incurred administering The Fund. These include for example:
  - staff costs
  - advertising and publicity to raise awareness of The Fund
  - web page design
  - printing application forms
  - small IT changes, for example, to facilitate MI production
- Eligible spend does not include:
  - advice services including debt advice
  - mortgage costs.

31. It is expected that the focus of support should be on bills and that support for housing costs should only be given in exceptional cases of genuine emergency. Beyond this, Authorities have discretion to determine the most appropriate Fund for their area, based on their understanding of local need and with due regard to equality considerations.

32. There is no prescriptive definition of essentials. Authorities have discretion to assess what is reasonable to assist those in genuine need this winter with regard to the examples above.

33. Individual awards can be whatever type and amount is deemed appropriate by Authorities for the receiving household, bearing in mind the overall spend eligibility priorities listed above and the risk of fraud and error. Awards to any given household can cover several or only one of the spend eligibility categories listed above.
34. Authorities should not make The Fund eligibility conditional on being employed or self-employed, or directly linked to a loss of earnings from employment or self-employment. This will ensure that there is no National Insurance contribution liability payable on any payments by either the citizen, the Authority or employer.

### **Funding overlap**

35. Authorities should consider household circumstances when making a decision on how to spend this grant. Households may be receiving other forms of support, and this should be taken into account to avoid duplicating provision where possible. In particular, LAs should prioritise those who have not already received additional support for the cost of living. However, families receiving other forms of assistance are not excluded from receiving support through The Fund.

### **Individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds**

36. Authorities can provide a basic safety net support to an individual, regardless of their immigration status, if there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example if:
- there are community care needs
  - they have serious health problems
  - there is a risk to a child's wellbeing
37. The rules around immigration status have not changed. Authorities must use their judgement to decide what legal powers and funding can be used to support individuals who are ineligible for public funds or statutory housing assistance.

### **Access to data**

38. The Household Support Fund is being classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP). The provision of DWP data to Authorities is under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the 'Department for Work and Pensions and LAs (Access, handling, exchange and protection of DWPss' and HM Revenue and Customs' data)'.
39. Authorities who have signed and returned the relevant section (Annex C) of the current DWP/LA MoU have legal permission to access DWPs Searchlight portal and specific UC, Pension Credit, ESA (IR) and HB only data through a monthly data share for the purpose of The Fund.
40. Authorities will need to ensure they sign future iterations of the MoU and the appropriate Annex to continue to have the legal permission to access the data sources for LWP.
41. Staff accessing Searchlight will need to be registered with the Employee Authentication System. Further information on Searchlight can be found in the Local Authority Searchlight Training Pack available in the Searchlight folder on Glasscubes (the LA/DWP online collaboration tool). If your Authority needs to discuss access to Glasscubes, contact DWP at [lawelfare.lasupport@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.lasupport@dwp.gov.uk)

## DWP Searchlight

42. This portal provides information on individual citizens' entitlement to (and confirms receipt of) DWP welfare benefits. Therefore, this data can be used to help Authorities identify and target those families and individuals to support. Authorities may also wish to establish if other forms of support are available to the household. In relation to housing costs this must include checking whether the household could receive DHPs. The Authority must also first consider if the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and, therefore, owed a duty of support through the HPG.
43. Searchlight can only be used to verify a specific individual's DWP benefit information. Therefore, if an Authority identified a group of potential claimants who may be eligible for The Fund from their own records, they can access Searchlight to verify each claimant's DWP benefit entitlement (although benefit entitlement is not a condition of support).

### Monthly data share

44. We are providing Authorities with details of UC claimants in their Authority whose income is below the FSM and free prescription thresholds and those with Limited Capability For Work both at individual level and summary level by Ward. We are also providing Authorities with details of those in receipt of Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit element of Pension Credit and their appointees if appropriate, as well as for all claimants on ESA (IR). Authorities may find this information useful in identifying those most in need.
45. We are also introducing a further data share for those in receipt of HB only. Individuals in this group are not eligible for a means-tested Cost of Living Payment and so this data share will allow Authorities to identify them and more easily consider their need for support.
46. The UC, Pension Credit, ESA (IR) and HB only data will be provided monthly via Transfer Your File.
47. Authorities will receive two data shares on a monthly basis:
- **File one** - contains individual data of the National Insurance number and names of UC claimants within the Authority area and:
    - income below the thresholds of £7,400 per year for FSMs and income below the free prescription threshold of £935 per month as identified in their last UC assessment period
    - those with a Limited Capability for Work indicator within the last assessment period, and
    - the number of children in the household.
    - those whose award is subject to the benefit cap
    - those in receipt of the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy and Local Housing Allowance (available from Autumn 2022)
  - the National Insurance number, names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of those in receipt of Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit element of Pension Credit and their appointees if appropriate, as well as for all claimants on income-related ESA (IR).
  - the National Insurance number, names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of customers who are in receipt of HB but not in receipt of a means tested benefit (for example: UC, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, ESA (IR), Income Support and Pension Credit)

**File two** - contains aggregate data showing those UC claimants that are:

- at or below the Free School Meal income threshold
- at or below the free prescription income threshold, and
- in the Limited Capability for Work group.

For a full breakdown of the file contents see **Local Welfare Provision monthly data share field definitions** at **Annex B**.

48. Authorities also have access to their own non-DWP data to help identify vulnerable households who may be eligible for support under The Fund.

## Reporting requirements

49. Authorities are required to make two Statements of Grant Usage and MI returns – see the **Grant Determination**.. The deadline for completing these returns is shown in the table below. Completed MI returns should be sent to [lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk)

50. An interim MI return is required by 25 January 2023 for spend for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022. The interim MI return will be used to determine eligible spend to 31 December 2022 and an interim grant payment will be made to your Authority for this period when the information in your return has been verified.

51. A final MI return is required by 28 April 2023 showing total spend from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. The final MI return will be used to determine total eligible spend to 31 March 2023 and a final grant payment will be made to your Authority for this period when the information in your return has been verified.

52. Authorities should use the standard MI reporting template provided, which incorporates the Statement of Grant Usage. For the purpose of this section:

- **Grant allocation** refers to the amount of grant allocated to a TPO to distribute to vulnerable households.
- **Grant award or spend** refers to the amount provided or paid to vulnerable households under the remit of this grant.

MI return	Reporting period		Deadline
	From	To	
Interim MI return	1 October 2022	31 December 2022	25 January 2023
Final MI return	1 October 2022	31 March 2023	28 April 2023

53. It is the responsibility of Authorities to provide the MI returns to DWP. Failure to return the MI by the deadline may result in a delayed payment or a payment being refused.

54. Where Authorities (including District Councils) issue awards directly to vulnerable households they should either obtain information at source or via information or data they have access to, in order to complete the split of spend and number of awards across the reporting categories. For example, households with children and pensioners; food, energy bills, essentials linked to food and energy bills, wider essentials and (in exceptional circumstances) housing support. Where Authorities decide to deliver support to vulnerable households through TPOs they should use

whatever information the TPO holds, or other available data, to split the level of spend and volume of awards across the eligibility criteria to the best of their ability.

55. The different elements of the MI template are shown below together with guidance on how to complete them.

Table 1 Governance

<b>Table 1: Governance</b>	<b>Response</b>
Local Authority (full name)	
Section 151 officer (name)	
Section 151 officer (email address)	
Is the Section 151 officer / CFO copied into the return to DWP? (Y/N)	
Reporting Period	
Approved signed off by	
LA Single Point of Contact	
Date Returned to DWP	

56. Each MI return must include your Section 151 Officer's name and email address to provide assurance on validation of funding spend. If the Section 151 Officer is also the SPOC (single point of contact) for the scheme, please input details in both response fields.

57. We also require you to copy your Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer into the email, providing this assurance when you return the MI template to DWP. This will be checked against DWP records. By doing this you confirm that the Section 151 Officer has agreed the correctness of spend reported.

58. Please indicate that you have done this in row 4 of the table "Is the section 151 Officer/CFO copied into the return to DWP?" If the MI is incomplete or incorrect it will be returned to the Authority by the DWP for correction and re-submission which must also be copied to your Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer.

59. Table 2: Total Awards

<b>Table 2: Total Awards</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Spend (£s)</b>
a) Total amount provided to vulnerable households	
b) Administration Costs	
c) Total LA spend (a+b)	£ -

60. Total amount provided to vulnerable households – this is the total amount of The Fund that has been paid or awarded to vulnerable households. It includes amounts paid by Authorities and by TPOs on behalf of Authorities. It should not include amounts allocated to TPOs that have not been spent during the reporting period. This cell will automatically populate from the total in table 3. Note, all cells which automatically populate are shaded grey and are protected.

61. Administration costs – this includes reasonable costs incurred administering The Fund. These include for example:

- a. staff costs
- b. advertising and publicity to raise awareness of The Fund
- c. web page design

- d. printing application forms
- e. small IT changes, for example, to facilitate MI production

62. Total LA spend – this is the total of the above. It is the amount that will be used to determine the grant funding payment from DWP to cover the full cost of administering the grant in an Authority area. A single grant payment will be made in arrears on the receipt of a fully completed and verified MI return. This cell will automatically populate from the figures in rows a and b.

63. Table 3: Total value of awards split by household composition

Table 3: Total Value of Awards Split by Household Composition						
		a) Households with Children	b) Households with Pensioners	c) Households with a Disabled Person	d) Other households	e) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d)
Row 1	Spend (£s)					£ -
Row 2	Volumes					-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped					-

64. Table 3 relates to grant spend, the volume of awards made, and number of households helped in relation to households with children, pensioners, a disabled person and all other households. Rows 1 and 2 relate to grant awards made by Authorities (including District Councils) directly to vulnerable households, and grant awards to vulnerable households made by TPOs. Row 3 refers to the number of households helped.

65. Spend (£s) - this is the amount paid/awarded to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. Authorities should make every effort to gather information to establish the household type. For example, for households with children whether a child resides in the household (including being the only member of the household) in order to complete the template as fully as possible. This information is important for DWP to evaluate how successful The Fund has been in providing support to households with children.

66. Authorities should either gather information or check existing records they hold or have access to, in order to establish whether the household includes a child or a pensioner (as defined below) or a disabled person and complete columns a, b and c accordingly. Responsibility for MI reporting rests with Authorities. Where Shire Counties pass grant allocations to District Councils, District Councils should pass the information relating to columns a, b and c to the County Council/Unitary Authority to collate the information and send one collated template to DWP.

67. For the purposes of recording spend in the MI template, if an award relates to more than one of 'Households with Children', 'Households with Pensioners' (in other words, pensioners living with children) and 'Households with a Disabled Person' (for example disabled people living with children), Authorities have the flexibility to categorise and record the spend under the household composition(s) which they consider more fitting. In determining this, Authorities should, as far as is possible, consider who the award is principally intended to support.

68. For the purpose of the reporting requirements for this grant (and without prejudice to other schemes):

- The definition of a household with a child is a household containing any person:
  - who will be under the age of 19 at the time of award or,
  - a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit (for example, Child Benefit) is paid or FSMs are provided.
- The definition of a household with a pensioner is any household containing any person:
  - who has reached State Pension age at the time of award

- The definition of disability and disabled people aligns with the definition in the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, a disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities:
  - 'substantial' is more than minor or trivial, for example it takes much longer than it normally would to complete a daily task like getting dressed;
  - 'long-term' means 12 months or more, for example a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection.

69. For tables 3 to 6

- Volumes: this is the number of individual/separate payments made to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. If multiple awards are made to the same household throughout the period of The Fund each award should be counted separately. Where an award is made to a household with multiple children, it should be classed as a single award.
- Number of Households Helped: this is the number of individual households helped by The Fund within the eligibility criteria. There should be only one record for each household helped, even if multiple awards are made to the same household throughout the period of The Fund.
- Reporting TPO Spend and TPO Volumes: we acknowledge that some TPOs, for example, charitable and voluntary organisations such as food banks, have limited or no access to household information and may not be in a position to provide this information to the same level of accuracy as Authorities. We are therefore asking Authorities and TPOs to report the actual level of spend and the volume of awards across the different eligibility criteria in rows 1-3 to the best of their ability.

70. Table 4: Total Value of Awards Split by Category

Table 4: Total Value of Awards Split by Category								
		a) Energy and Water	b) Food excluding FSM support in the holidays	c) Free School Meals support in the holidays	d) Essentials linked to Energy and Water	e) Wider Essentials	f) Housing Costs	g) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d+e+f)
Row 1	Spend (£s)							£ -
Row 2	Volumes							-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped							-

71. Table 4 relates to grant spend, volume of awards made, and households helped in relation to food, energy and water bills, essentials linked to energy and water bills, wider essentials, and (in exceptional circumstances) housing costs.

72. Table 5: Total Value of Awards Split by Types of Support

Table 5: Total Value of Awards Split by Types of Support							
		a) Vouchers	b) Cash Awards	c) Third Party Organisations	d) Tangible Items	e) Other	f) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d+e)
Row 1	Spend (£s)						£ -
Row 2	Volumes						-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped						-

73. Table 5 relates to grant spend, volume of awards made, and households helped in relation to Vouchers, Cash Awards, Third Party Organisations, Tangible Items and Other.

74. By 'Tangible Items' we mean products that are of a physical nature such as clothing or household items.

75. Table 6: Total Value of Awards Split by Access Routes

Table 6: Total Value of Awards Split by Access Routes					
		a) Application-based Support	b) Proactive Support	c) Other	d) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c)
Row 1	Spend (£s)				£ -
Row 2	Volumes				-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped				-

76. Table 6 relates to grant spend, volume of awards made, and households helped in relation to Application-based support, Proactive Support and Other.

77. By application-based support, we mean any awards made through a successful application for support made to the Authority by eligible recipients or through third parties who run self-referral support services on behalf of the Authority.

78. By proactive support we mean any awards made as a result of the Authority proactively identifying recipients.

79. Total - Table 3 Row 1 column g, Table 4 row 1 column g, Table 5 Row 1 column f and Table 6 column row 1 d are protected and will automatically add up spend across the different headings. This figure will automatically populate Table 2 row a.

80. When allocating spend and the volume of awards across the eligibility criteria please follow the guidance below.

- a. Each award needs to be allocated four times – one allocation for each of Tables 3-6 so that when you report on the total spent on:
  - Table 3, award by household composition
  - Table 4 award by category of spend
  - Table 5 type of support
  - Table 6 access route

the total amount you have paid will be the same across the four tables.

81. Tables 3 to 6 ask for spend and award volumes to be recorded against four sets of criteria, one for each table. Therefore, the details of each award need to be recorded four times; once against one set of criteria in Table 3, then a second time for Table 4 and again in Tables 5 and 6. Shown below is a worked example of how the MI template should be completed.

82. Authorities are asked to report and manage spend in relation to all of these areas. For example, if a £100 award of vouchers is made following a successful application for support to a household with children for food, you would allocate £100 to the 'Households with children' section in Table 3, £100 to the 'food' section in Table 4, £100 to the Vouchers section of Table 5 and £100 to the Application-based support of Table 6. You would also allocate one award and one household supported in these sections of Tables 3 to 6.

83. If The Fund payments are paid directly to a vulnerable household's Council Tax Account in lieu of a different payment method: for example for food excluding FSM in the holidays /energy and water; then the amount paid must be recorded under the intended heading, in this case food excluding FSM support in the holiday. If the payment is in relation to both food and energy in equal measures put 50% of the award in each of the two categories.



## Additional guidance and examples when working with TPOs

84. Include, where possible, the amount of spend across the following categories:
- households with children, households with pensioners, households with a disabled person, other households, and
  - energy and water bills, essentials linked to energy and water bills, wider essentials, and (in exceptional circumstances) housing costs.
85. For example, if you have allocated:
- grant funding to a food bank to provide food to vulnerable people, establish the amount of that allocation the food bank has spent and enter in Table 4 the full amount spent under 'food excluding FSM through the school holidays' as you know that the grant allocation has been spent in respect of food in term time and not covering FSMs, and in Table 3 provide the split across household composition to the best of your ability in accordance with the example below.
  - grant funding to a charity that specialises in providing vulnerable children with clothing, establish the amount of that allocation the charity has spent and enter the full amount spent in 'households with children' and the full amount of the grant spent in 'wider essentials'. This is because you know that the purpose of the grant is for children and the nature of support is clothing which comes under wider essentials.
  - As this is TPO spend record the full amount of the grant spend under 'Third Party Organisations' in Table 5 and record the full amount of the grant spend under 'Other' in Table 6. For all entries, please add volumes of awards and numbers of households helped when completing the MI.
86. The amount of MI available will vary considerably across each TPO. Use whatever information is already available or reasonable to collect to be as accurate as possible.
87. Shown below are some examples of how to complete the template.

### Example 1

88. A food bank operates on an open basis where anyone can turn up and pick up food and supplies. This is not an award made directly to vulnerable households by an Authority. The cost is picked up by a TPO, for example, the food bank. The MI template should be completed as per guidance below. The award was not made as a result of an application nor proactive support.
89. The total value of grant spent, the volume of awards made by the charity or voluntary organisations providing the food bank and number of households helped should be entered in Table 3 (The Authority or food bank provider will need to provide the split between household composition to the best of their ability) and column b (Food Excluding FSM support in the holidays) of Table 4. These values should be reported in column c (Third Party Organisations) of Table 5 and column c (Other) of Table 6.

### Example 2

90. The Authority directly provides vouchers to vulnerable households as a result of the Authority proactively identifying the recipients. These could be redeemable at a number of food outlets including supermarkets or food banks. Food voucher amounts can vary depending on how many children reside in the household. Authorities are expected to collect or verify information to establish whether the award is made to a household with children or a household with pensioners or a disabled person. The MI template should be completed as follows:

- the value of awards should be entered in Table 3 in 'spend' row 1 column a (households with children), row 1 column b (households with pensioners), row 1 column c (households with a disabled person) and row 1 column d (other households) based on the information the Authority has been capturing to split spend across these categories.
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 3 row 2 (Volumes) column a and row 2 column b based on the information the Authority has been capturing to split the volume of awards spent across these categories.
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 3 row 3 (number of households helped) column a and row 3 column b based on the information the Authority has been capturing to split the number of households helped across these categories.
- the value of awards should be entered in Table 4 row 1 column b because it relates to food excluding FSM support outside the holidays.
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 4 row 2 column b because it relates to food
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 4 row 3 (number of households helped) column b because it relates to food
- the value of awards should be entered in Table 5 row 1 column a because it relates to vouchers
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 5 row 2 column a because it relates to vouchers
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 5 row 3 column a because it relates to vouchers
- the value of awards should be entered in Table 6 row 1 column b because it relates to proactive support
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 6 row 2 column b because it relates to proactive support
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 6 row 3 column b because it relates to proactive support

## **DWP engagement**

91. LA Performance Relationship Managers (PRMs) from DWPs LA Partnership, Engagement and Delivery (LA-PED) division will contact Authorities to provide support and gather information throughout The Fund. LA-PED will contact Authorities for initial compliance (where necessary) including where:

- the MI templates have not been completed and returned,
- the MI templates have not been copied to the Authority's Section 151 Officer or CFO.
- an incorrect template has been used – MI should only be returned on the MI template provided. No local versions or PDF copies are acceptable.

92. They will also contact Authorities where further clarification is needed in respect of the information provided on the MI reporting template, if for example:

- critical data is missing, or the data looks odd, or
- the Authority is reporting a high value of awards where they have not been able to establish the household composition. We may need the Authority to explain why that is the case and provide supporting evidence.
- the Authority is reporting a high value of administration costs. We may need the Authority to explain why that is the case and provide supporting evidence.
- there is a significant gap between actual and allocated spend. We may need the Authority to explain why spend was so low.

93. They will look to identify good practice and identify case studies where appropriate.

94. Authorities are required to complete a delivery plan to outline their intentions for The Fund and to demonstrate some of the ways in which they intend to allocate their funding. The delivery plan will be due one month after the start of The Fund on 28 October 2022. At the end of the The Fund we will also ask for a summary of spend against the final delivery plan with this due at the same time as the final MI in April 2023.
95. DWP will also continue to engage with Authorities throughout the course of The Fund and will provide opportunities to engage with the department and other Authorities to share good practice and work collaboratively. DWP will continue to respond to questions we receive via the designated inbox as quickly as possible.
96. Where Authorities work with District Councils and TPOs it is the responsibility of Authorities to collect and collate MI and complete one collated MI return and submit to DWP.

## **DWP funding arrangements**

97. The Fund is ring-fenced to be spent as detailed in this guidance and the accompanying grant determination. To ensure that the objectives of The Fund are being met during the course of the grant and reduce administration costs for all concerned, including the need for DWP to recover underspend, grant payment will be made in arrears upon DWP being satisfied with the MI returns. This will enable DWP to adjust the amount of the payment based on the MI returns.
98. Payment of The Fund from DWP to Authorities will be made in arrears after the interim MI return in January 2023 and the final MI return at the end of grant period in April 2023 after we have verified the MI. If an Authority feels that the payment arrangements will create significant cash flow problems, please notify DWP as soon as possible with supporting evidence. Both an interim and a final MI return will be required and grant payments will be made in respect of the periods 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 and 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.
99. MI returns **must be endorsed by the Section 151** Officer in accordance with their statutory assurance responsibility in order for the grant payment to be made by copying your Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer into the email.
100. The guidance for completion is provided on a separate tab within the MI template.
101. The definition of spend includes grant funding that has been provided to vulnerable households, within the scope of the eligibility criteria, and within the period of The Fund 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.
102. Spend also includes 'committed spend'. For the purpose of The Fund committed spend relates to grant funding that has been spent and delivered to vulnerable households even though the vulnerable household may not have used their grant funding. An example would be the award of a food voucher on 31 March 2023 to a vulnerable household. It would be unreasonable to expect the household to be restricted to redeem the voucher on the day of receipt. In this example, spend has been committed by the Authority, support has been provided to a vulnerable household and, therefore, should be included as eligible grant spend. It would be reasonable to expect the vulnerable household to redeem the food voucher during the month following the end of The Fund.

103. However, committed spend does not include large volumes of food vouchers, procured quite late in The Fund, which cannot be distributed to vulnerable households within the period of The Fund.
104. Authorities that plan to order vouchers in bulk should attempt to be realistic in the volumes ordered to avoid holding large stocks of unused vouchers at the end of The Fund. Alternatively, Authorities may want to consider:
- purchasing vouchers on a sale or return basis, so that they can return any unused vouchers, or
  - expired vouchers returned to an Authority after The Fund has ended can be recycled and re-issued within a reasonable timeframe but must be done so under the same categories of spend as originally reported and under the same terms as The Fund they were issued under.
105. For audit purposes where an Authority recycles and reuses expired vouchers the Authority must confirm by email to [lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk), copying in the Section 151 Officer:
- the amount that has been returned
  - reason for the return (for example, expired voucher)
  - what the original spend was reported against in their **FINAL MI** return
  - confirm they intend to spend the total unspent amount against the same category of spend for the same group.
106. The definition of committed spend for the purpose of The Fund does not affect its accounting treatment in accordance with normal rules.

107. The timetable for provision of funding is as follows:

**Funding:**

Payment	Amount (%)	Date	Notes
Interim	Actual grant spend up to 100% of grant allocation*	February/March 2023	Payment made in arrears
Final	Actual grant spend up to 100% of grant allocation*	June/July 2023	Payment made in arrears

\*Subject to eligible spend criteria

**Managing the risk of fraud**

108. Fraudsters can target funds of this type.
109. As with any welfare payment to vulnerable recipients there is a risk of fraud, as recipients might appear to be eligible when they are not.
110. To help mitigate this risk, Authorities should involve District Councils and other organisations chosen to administer The Fund to help identify vulnerable families, households and individuals.

111. Authorities wishing to work with TPOs to deliver The Fund must carry out suitable due diligence checks to ensure they are viable and able to deliver the support. So, for example, ensuring all charities are registered and taking extra caution if they are new organisations.
112. Authorities are also encouraged to ensure checks are in place to verify the identity of those eligible.
113. Authorities are encouraged to ask neighbouring Authorities to work together to help prevent double provision and/or no provision – especially where allocation of provision is by school in one area and by residential address in another.
114. It is for Authorities to decide how payments are made to recipients. However, when making decisions, Authorities should consider the risks involved. Although they still carry fraud risks, vouchers should be used instead of cash where possible as this helps to mitigate the risk of the money being spent by the recipient on things outside of the policy intent.
115. Authorities should ensure that they consider and put in place suitable controls when making use of vouchers as part of The Fund. Authorities may wish to consider restricting access to these vouchers; and also consider restricting usage to ensure that they cannot be spent outside the intended scope of The Fund.
116. It is important to be vigilant to fraud and error risks in relation to housing costs, and to assure yourself that the appropriate checks are in place. Authorities should take appropriate steps to ensure they take into consideration household income and rent liability which may be requested and reviewed as set out in the grant determination. We expect Authorities to work with district councils to ensure support is going to those with genuine need and to help minimise the risk of fraud on housing support.
117. Where possible, any payments made into a bank account should be in the same name of the person that is eligible for that payment. Authorities have access to a range of data sources, and checks can be carried out against this data to verify the identity of the recipient. Authorities are also encouraged to use existing tools at their disposal to verify personal bank accounts.
118. If the Authority has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this Determination, it must notify DWP immediately, explain what steps are being taken to investigate the suspicion and keep DWP informed about the progress of the investigation. For these purposes ‘financial irregularity’ includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.
119. If you suspect fraud, you should notify DWP of the:
- number of instances
  - total amount lost
120. This will help DWP identify any emerging threats and share them with other Authorities, so they can take steps to prevent and detect any fraud in their Fund.

## **Complying with Subsidy (previously State Aid) rules**

121. The funding is intended to benefit households most in need of support with energy bills, food, related essentials, wider essentials and (exceptionally) housing costs, in order to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. The funds should not be used for any economic undertaking.

122. Whichever way you use the funding, including where you work in partnership with others, you should consider all Subsidy rules (previously State Aid) issues. Check whether the 'de minimis' regulation exception applies. You should also follow government procurement procedures where relevant.

## **Administration costs**

123. The Household Support Fund funding allocation includes reasonable administration costs to enable Authorities to deliver The Fund. Authorities should deduct their administration costs from the total allocation to determine the amount remaining.

124. In all cases, Authorities should keep administrative costs to a reasonable level.

125. Administration costs for each Authority will be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) alongside detail of all spend and volumes related to The Fund.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty**

126. In accordance with the public sector equality duty, DWP has had due regard for the potential equalities impacts of this grant.

127. Under the Equality Act 2010, all public authorities must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. For the purposes of this grant, you should consider how any support that helps people facing severe financial hardship impacts those with characteristics protected under the Equality Act.

128. When developing your local delivery frameworks, you should ensure people are not disadvantaged or treated unfairly by The Fund. For example, any application process should be easy to access and to navigate.

## **Contact**

129. If you have any queries about the content of this guidance or use of the funding, you can contact [lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:lawelfare.pdt@dwp.gov.uk)

## Eligibility for cost of living and energy support

Detailed eligibility requirements for the Cost of Living Payments can be found at:

[Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living-payment)

Further details on the Energy Bills Support Scheme can be found at:

[Energy Bills Support Scheme explainer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer)

Eligibility requirements for the Council Tax Rebate and information on the associated £144m Discretionary Fund can be found at:

[The council tax rebate 2022-23 – billing authority guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance)

## Local Welfare Provision monthly data share field definitions

The definitions will be updated to include information regarding the additional data share of those who are in receipt of HB only when the details are confirmed.

### File 1 – The list of individuals:

Field Name	Description
claimant1_nino	The national insurance number (NINO) of the lead UC claimant
claimant1_surname	The surname of the lead UC claimant in the Household
claimant1_forename1	The forename of the lead UC claimant in the Household
claimant2_nino	If applicable the NINO of the UC partner in the household. In some cases this may be the same as the UC claimant NINO, usually where the partner NINO data is not available.
claimant2_surname	The surname of the UC partner if Claimant 2 NINO provided
claimant2_forename_1	The forename of the UC partner if Claimant 2 NINO provided
ap_start_date	The start date of the household's UC assessment period (AP)
ap_end_month	This will always be the month of the extract.
has_children_latest_ap	Set to 1 if the UC Household is recorded to have children in the AP used for the extract 1= children 0 = no children
total_children	The number of children recorded in the UC Household for the AP used in the extract, null = no children, the field HAS_CHILDREN_LATEST_AP will also be 0 if there are no children
has_lcw_latest_ap	Set to 1 if a member of the UC Household is in the UC limited capability for work group
eligible_prescription_latest_ap	Set to 1 if the UC Household is below the Free Prescription threshold
earnings_below_fsm_threshold	Set to 1 if the UC Household is below the Free School Meal threshold
country_name	England Scotland Wales
local_authority_name	Your LA name
local_authority_code	the standard lookup code for your authority



tyf_la_id_code	the LA ID code as registered on Transfer Your File for your authority
postcode_outward_code	Postcode sector in the ward
ward_name	Name of the ward
ward_code	Code of the ward
cap_applied	True, False or Null
spare_room_subsidy_removal	True, False or Null
local_housing_allowance_applied	True, False or Null
BENEFIT_TYPE	Will show one of the following: UC PC GC SC SC/GC ESA-IR HB
PC/ESA-IR/HB_NINO	The NINO of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer
PC/ESA-IR/HB_SURNAME	The surname of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer
PC/ESA-IR/HB_FORENAME_1	The first name of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer
PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_1	The PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_2	The PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_3	The PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_ADDRESS_LINE_4	The PC/ESA-IR/HB customer address as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_POSTCODE	The postcode as recorded on the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_TELEPHONE_NO1	The telephone number of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer as reported on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC/ESA-IR/HB_TELEPHONE_NO2	The second telephone number (if applicable) of the PC/ESA-IR/HB customer as reported on the PC/ESA-IR/HB claim
PC_APPOINTEE_SURNAME	If appropriate the surname of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_FORENAME_1	If appropriate the forename of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_1	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_2	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_3	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim

PC_APPOINTEE_ADDRESS_LINE_4	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_POSTCODE	If appropriate the address of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_TELEPHONE_NO1	If appropriate the telephone number of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim
PC_APPOINTEE_TELEPHONE_NO2	If appropriate the second telephone number of the Personal/Corporate Acting Body as reported on the PC claim

## File 2 – The Aggregate file

This shows for your Authority:

Country (England, Scotland or Wales)  
 Local Authority (the name of your Authority)  
 LOCAL\_AUTHORITY\_CODE (the standard lookup code for your authority)  
 TYF\_LA\_ID\_CODE (the Transfer Your File code for your authority)

For each postcode sector (POSTCODE\_OUTWARD\_CODE) in a ward (WARD\_NAME),  
 (WARD\_CODE)

Number of Households in the ward with UC Limited Capability to Work group  
 (HAS\_LCW\_LATEST\_AP)

Number of UC households in the Authority without children (HHS\_NO\_CHILDREN\_IN\_LA)  
 Number of UC households in the Authority with children (HHS\_WITH\_CHILDREN\_IN\_LA)  
 Number of children in the Authority in UC households with children (NO\_OF\_CHILDREN\_IN\_LA)  
 Number of UC households without children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School Meal income threshold and free prescription threshold (HHS\_NO\_CHILDREN\_PRESC\_OR\_FSM)  
 Number of UC households without children in the postcode sector that are below the Free Prescription income threshold (HHS\_NO\_CHILDREN\_PRESC)  
 Number of UC households without children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School meal income threshold (HHS\_NO\_CHILDREN\_FSM)

Number of UC households with children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School Meal income threshold and free prescription threshold  
 (HHS\_WITH\_CHILDREN\_PRESC\_OR\_FSM)  
 Number of UC households with children in the postcode sector that are below the Free Prescription income threshold (HHS\_WITH\_CHILDREN\_PRESC)  
 Number of UC households with children in the postcode sector that are below the Free School meal income threshold (HHS\_WITH\_CHILDREN\_FSM)

Number of children in UC households in the postcode sector that are below the Free School Meal income threshold and free prescription threshold (CHILDREN\_PRESCRIPTIONS\_OR\_FSM)  
 Number of children in UC households in the postcode sector that are below the Free Prescription income threshold (CHILDREN\_PRESCRIPTION)  
 Number of children in UC households in the postcode sector that are below the Free School meal income threshold (CHILDREN\_FSM)