

WMUK Patient Winter Fuel Fund

Terms & Conditions

What is the Patient Winter Fuel Fund?

The Patient Winter Fuel Fund has been set up to support WM and LPL patients who have missed out on receiving their crucial Winter Fuel Payment.

People with WM and LPL often experience side effects and symptoms that mean they need to use more heating during the colder months. Most of the community were eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, which gave them extra money to pay for higher bills. However, due to changes in policy, many of the people are no longer receiving the Payment this winter.

In 2023, WMUK launched its first Patient Financial Assistance Fund; almost half of the grants awarded were used to pay bills. Therefore, we know that meeting household bills was already a struggle for many in the WM community, before the loss of the vital Winter Fuel Payment.

That's why WMUK have launched the Patient Winter Fuel Fund. This fund provides a £200 one-off grant to anyone who is eligible, helping to fill the gap and help people to live well with the WM/LPL.

Our pot of money is limited, and so grants will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

Eligibility

The fund is open to anyone who meets the following criteria:

- Has a confirmed diagnosis of Waldenström's macroglobulinaemia (WM) or lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma (LPL)
- Was born on or before 22 September 1958
- Has not received their Winter Fuel Payment for Winter 2024/25
- Lives in the UK

Only patients with WM or LPL may apply; the fund is not open to family, friends or carers of people with WM/LPL. If the person with WM/LPL is unable to apply for themselves, please email us on info@wmuk.org.uk and we can help you apply on their behalf.

This fund is specifically for those who have missed out on the government's Winter Fuel Payment in 2024/25, but would have otherwise been eligible. To ensure we're helping the right people, we ask that anyone who has received the benefit this winter to not apply.

Proof of Eligibility

We require a scan or photographic copy of ID (e.g. passport, driver's licence) that clearly shows your name and date of birth to prove you are in the age category previously eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment. This needs to be uploaded as a part of the application form.

You will need to state that you have a confirmed diagnosis of WM or LPL in the application process. We may ask for follow up proof of this, in the form of a letter from your consultant or healthcare team.

Our grant pot is limited and so we trust that anyone applying is no longer eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment.

Application process

The application process is simple. Just fill in the application form on our website. You will need to fill this out yourself, which includes uploading a picture or scanned copy of ID that clearly shows your name and date of birth.

If you are unable to apply online, please email us info@wmuk.org.uk for a paper copy. Paper copies can be photographed or scanned and emailed back to us to the same address.

The WMUK team may follow up your application with questions or for further proof of eligibility. Please be aware that if we do not receive a response, we will not be able to process your application or award you the grant.

Processing your grant

Once we've received your application, we'll let you know within 2 weeks whether you have been successful. We may have follow-up questions or require further proof of your eligibility. If you do not respond, we will not be able to process or award your grant.

We will then transfer the funds by BACs to the bank details you provide on your application form. Transfers will happen in February 2025. The grant will be paid in GBP.

Your bank account details will be kept securely on our files until this point, and will subsequently be deleted after the transfer. If you are unsuccessful in your application, we will immediately delete your bank details from our system.

Using the funds

The grant is being awarded specifically to cover the gap where Winter Fuel Payment used to be. Although we do not require proof of expenditure, we expect that successful applicants will use it to help cover the cost of their winter fuel bills.

FAQs

Why has my application been turned down?

Your application may have been turned down because you have not met the eligibility criteria. If this is the case, we will notify you of the reason when we get in touch. Reasons include:

- You haven't received an official diagnosis of Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia (WM) or lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma (LPL)
- You haven't filled in the form correctly
- You haven't included proof of age
- You are a carer, family member or friend of someone with WM or LPL
- Your proof of age does not meet the criteria set out in the terms and conditions
- All the grants have already been awarded
- You haven't responded to any follow up queries or requests for further proof of eligibility from the WMUK team

The funds available are limited, and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. This means that your application might be turned down if you apply after the funds have been used, or you reply to any follow-up queries after the funds have been used.

Can I apply more than once?

If you have been successful in your first application and received a grant from the Patient Winter Fuel Fund, then you cannot apply to this or any other WMUK grant for another 12 months. This is because our pot of funds is limited and we want to ensure everyone who needs access to the funds can receive them.

If you were unsuccessful in your previous application and your circumstances have changed so that you are now eligible (e.g. you now have an official diagnosis of WM, instead of suspected disease), then you are very welcome to reapply. Please carefully review the eligibility criteria and application process to ensure you meet the requirements.

Can I apply on someone's behalf?

The WMUK Patient Winter Fuel Fund is only available to WM and LPL patients, and we ask that they apply to us directly.

However, we want to ensure the funds are accessible to everyone who needs them. If, for whatever reason, the person living with WM is unable to apply themselves, please contact us at info@wmuk.org.uk and we will work with you to complete their application.