

Statement of Intent for ECO4 and Great British Insulation Scheme

Westmorland and Furness Council ECO4 Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent Local Authority name: Westmorland and Furness Council

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<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/housing/housing-energy-efficiency-grants-and-advice>

This statement sets out Westmorland and Furness Council's flexible eligibility criteria for the Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) scheme and Great British Insulation schemes which run until 2026.

The ECO4 scheme will focus on supporting low income and vulnerable households. The scheme will improve the least energy efficient homes helping to meet the Government's fuel poverty and net zero commitments. The Great British Insulation Scheme will support the ECO4 scheme in the delivery of predominantly single measures targeted at a wider range of households.

The flexible approach for Local Authorities (LAs) to identifying fuel poor and vulnerable households who may benefit from heating and energy saving measures is referred to as "ECO4 Flex" and "Great British Insulation Scheme Flex".

The Council welcomes the introduction of the ECO4 Flex eligibility routes as it helps the Council achieve its plans to improve the homes of those in fuel poverty or vulnerable to the cold.

The Council is publishing this Statement of Intent (Sol), on 27 October 2023 to confirm that each of the households declared will adhere to at least one of the four available routes outlined below:

Route 1: SAP bands D-G owner-occupied households and private rented sector E-G households with an income less than £31,000. This cap applies irrespective of the property size, composition, or region.

Route 2: SAP bands E-G for owner-occupied households and private rented sector households that meet a combination of two of the following proxies:

Proxy 1) Homes in England in Lower-layer Super Output Area 1-3 (LSOA)¹, or homes in Welsh provision LSOA 1-3 on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019², or the Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2020, published by the Scottish Government³

Proxy 2) Householders receiving a Council Tax reduction (based on low income only).

Proxy 3) Householders vulnerable to living in a cold home as identified in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance. Only one from the list can be used, excludes the proxy 'low income'.

Proxy 4) A householder receiving free school meals due to low- income.

Proxy 6) A household referred to the LA for support by their energy supplier or Citizens Advice or Citizens Advice Scotland, because they have been identified as struggling to pay their electricity and/or gas bills.

Proxy 7) [Please note, proxy 7 is for supplier owned debt data and is listed here for information only]. Households identified through energy supplier debt data. This route enables obligated suppliers to use their own debt data to identify either non pre-payment meter households (non-PPM), or pre-payment meter households (PPM)*.

Non-PPM customers: These are customers who have been in debt for more than 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made, and are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier or repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.

PPM customers: Suppliers may also identify PPM households who:

- have either self-disconnected or received supplier Discretionary/Friendly credit within the last 13 weeks ending with the day on which the declaration is made; or
- are in a debt repayment plan with their energy supplier; or
- repaying their fuel debt through 3rd party deductions.*

* Note proxies 1 and 3 cannot be used together.

* Note- proxy 5 is not in use

* Proxy 7 cannot be used in combination with proxy 5 or proxy 6

Route 3: SAP bands D-G Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that have been identified by either a person registered in the General Practitioner Register, a Scottish Health Board, a Welsh Health Board, an NHS Foundation Trust, or an NHS Trust as vulnerable, with an occupant whose health conditions may be adversely affected by living in a cold home. These health conditions must be cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed, or limited mobility related

Route 4: SAP band D-G Owner-occupied and private rented sector households that are referred under Route 4: Bespoke Targeting. Suppliers and LAs can submit an application to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero where they have identified new methods to identify low-income and vulnerable households. Applications need to demonstrate a number of factors, including that the proposed methodology is more effective at identifying households in fuel poverty than the criterion offered under Routes 1 and 2.

¹ [The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(full Index update with ranks\): 2019 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

³ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

Scheme Eligibility

All potentially eligible households should apply through Westmorland and Furness Council or one of their approved ECO / Great British Insulation Scheme installers, if a list of approved installers is available, to see if they can either benefit from the scheme or be assessed for eligibility under any other relevant programme.

An LA officer (not a 3rd party working on behalf of an LA) will be responsible for checking, and verifying evidence, and issuing declarations. For any general enquiries relating to this Sol please contact:

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CEO or dedicated responsible person mandatory signature

The Westmorland and Furness Council will administer the ECO 4 Flex scheme according to the Electricity and Gas Order (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2022 (ECO4A Order). The Council will administer the Great British Insulation Scheme Flex according to the Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) Order 2023 (ECO4A Order).

The CEO/ dedicated responsible person of the Council will oversee the process of identifying eligible households under ECO Flex and Great British Insulation Scheme Flex. The Council will notify Ofgem of households that declarations have been issued for via the declaration notification template.

All personal data collected or processed by Westmorland and Furness Council for the purposes of ECO4 Flex or Great British Insulation Scheme Flex will be processed and stored in accordance with: the Council's obligations under UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Council's data protection policy, the Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code and other guidance, and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero guidance.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Name: Steph Cordon

Job Title: Director Thriving Communities

Date of signature: 16/01/2024

For any general enquires relating to this Sol, please contact Better.Homes@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk.