



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Education Children and Young People Committee

Natalie Don MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security
Committee

T3.60
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Direct Tel: 0131 348 6225
Fax: 0131 348 5600
ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

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Via E-mail

Dear Natalie,

Increasing uptake of grants and provision

The Education, Children and Young People Committee considered negative instrument, Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (Modification) Regulations 2023, at its meeting on [Wednesday 8 March 2023](#).

The instrument will increase the eligibility threshold, from £7,920 to £8,717, to ensure that children of parents affected by the recent increase to the National Living Wage will still be entitled to free school meals.

As part of the Committee's discussion, the threshold for free school meals eligibility was raised, as was the need to encourage more take up for this and other supports.

Following these discussions, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Children and Young People to ask whether, given the current cost of living crisis—

- the Scottish Government had considered extending eligibility for free school meals;

- the Scottish Government could take action, in conjunction with COSLA, to enhance take up of free school meals, school uniform grants and other supports; and
- the Scottish Government had considered the use of automatic enrolment to ensure that families receive the support that they are entitled to.

Given the Social Justice and Social Security Committee's remit, and its recent work in this area, the Committee wished for you to be sighted on its correspondence to the Minister.

Yours sincerely

Sue Webber MSP
Convener