



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Social  
Justice, Housing and Local  
Government

Social Justice and Social Security Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Via email only

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14 January 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

**Follow-up from Social Justice and Social Security Committee – 13 January 2022**

Thank you for attending the Committee on 13 January to discuss the Scottish Government's budget.

During the evidence session you gave a commitment to provide some further information. These are noted below.

Due to the time constraints associated with consideration of the Budget 2022-23 it has not been possible to wait for the Official Report to be published. References are therefore provided to the approximate timestamps on [SPTV](#).

- To provide correspondence between SG and UK on the rolling out of the Scottish Child Payment to 5-15 year olds and in relation to the data sharing issues and to keep the Committee apprised on progress. (09:07:25)
- To write back in more detail about the question posed by Jeremy Balfour MSP that witnesses advised people would lose money if being transferred from DLA to ADP (see OR Col 7 [16 December 2021](#)). (9:35:44)
- To confirm how the remaining £16m of the £50m Ending Homelessness Together fund would be allocated. Miles Briggs MSP referred to your letter of [1 October 2021](#). (10:14:38)

- To outline in more detail how the Scottish Government is increasing the number of houses available that fully meet the accessibility needs of people with physical disabilities and other disabilities, for example, around setting percentage targets and timescales. (10:20:16)
- To keep the Committee updated on progress made with the third sector discussions on providing multi-year funding. (10:25:21)
- To update the Committee on the independent review of the Scottish Welfare Fund. (10:28:33)

In addition, the Committee has requested a response to the following questions from the [SPICe briefing](#):

- Theme 3: Uprating social security benefits:
  - Q3. Given current inflation and cost of living, did the Scottish Government consider uprating by more than 3.1%?
- Theme 4: Social Security development and operating costs
  - Q1. Why have costs increased from those set out in the February 2020 business case?
  - Q2. What are the Scottish Government's current five year projections for the Social Security Programme costs and Social Security Scotland operating costs?
  - Q3. Can you describe the increase in activity next year that requires a 12.4% increase in the Policy and Programme budget? (Particularly given that implementation of ADP will be a matter for Social Security Scotland rather than the Programme and that there is no public timetable for new benefits starting after low income winter heating in September 2022)
  - Q4. Will achieving the planned increase of 2,000 staff require in-year transfers to Social Security Scotland or do you expect the 14.6% increase in overall budget to be sufficient?

It would be helpful to have a response to the outstanding questions by 20 November to inform the pre-budget debate.

Yours sincerely

**Claire Menzies**  
**Clerk to the Social Justice and Social Security Committee**