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17 March 2022

## **The Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2022**

Dear Elena,

Further to my letter of yesterday's date to the Presiding Officer, this letter is to inform you that Scottish Ministers have today laid the draft Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 in the Scottish Parliament.

In response to the growing cost of living pressures, which have risen significantly recently due to the war in Ukraine, Ministers are seeking to urgently provide additional support to people by further increasing several forms of devolved social security benefits and assistance from the 3.1% raise in the current draft, up to 6%.

To this end, it is necessary to withdraw the Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 and re-lay a revised draft which provides the additional increase. In order to achieve these changes by 01 April I am seeking to re-lay these revised regulations today, Thursday 17 March 2022, and rely on an expedited parliamentary process with a coming into force date of 01 April.

Given the shortened timescales, the Scottish Commission on Social Security (SCoSS) has been unable to report on these draft regulations before laying but I can confirm that they have been passed a copy of the draft regulations. As such, a statement in accordance with section 97(9)(b) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 has been laid in Parliament alongside these regulations. SCoSS produced its report on the initial draft regulations on 17 January 2022 and may choose to issue a new or updated report.

I will respond to that report when it is published, including to bring forward further provision where that is necessary to implement recommendations that we accept and to explain why we will not do so where we do not agree with recommendations.

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I am aware that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee will need to consider the new draft of the regulations as well as the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

I would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused to the Parliament, in particular to those Committees, because of the need to implement these urgent measures. However, I trust Parliament will be supportive of the need to act urgently to support low income households who are disproportionately affected by rising costs.

I am copying this letter to the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Best regards,



**BEN MACPHERSON**

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