

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Collette Stevenson MSP

Convenor

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Scottish Parliament

EDINBURGH

EH99 1SP

By email to: sjss.committee@parliament.scot

11 September 2023

Dear Collette,

I'm pleased to inform you that today I have laid The Disability Assistance (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 and accompanying documents in Parliament.

The principal aim of these amendments is to further improve the journey for young people moving from Child Disability Payment (CDP) to Adult Disability Payment (ADP).

In developing CDP we listened to advice from people with lived experience of disability benefits and other experts in the social security field to ensure that we focus on addressing key concerns. In the principal regulations we extended eligibility criteria for CDP from 16 to 18. We know that young disabled people can find the transition from child to adult services challenging, and introduced this key point of difference to the DWP system to reduce the impact of transitions most young people experience at age 16.

These regulations will build on the existing improvements to disability assistance for young people by protecting payment dates in the move to ADP, providing financial security and continuity when we have been told is a difficult transition period for young people. It is worth noting that such a protection of payment dates to provide continuity is not currently available in the DWP system.

As I mentioned in my previous correspondence of 26 July, I am grateful for SCoSS's consideration and scrutiny of these amendment regulations and pleased to have accepted the majority of their recommendations. I am grateful for their commitment to ensuring the people of Scotland receive the service they deserve.

I hope the Committee will find this letter useful as you start scrutiny of these important Regulations. I am grateful to Members for the way in which they continue to engage constructively with the Scottish Government and look forward to appearing before Committee to give evidence on the draft amendment regulations in due course.

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE