



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Colette Stevenson MSP  
Convener  
Social Justice and Social Security Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

By email: [SJSS.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SJSS.committee@parliament.scot)

09 May 2023

Dear Convener

### **Removal of income thresholds for Best Start Foods**

On 16 September 2021, the former Minister for Social Security and Local Government wrote to the Committee regarding the commitment in the SNP manifesto to remove the Best Start Foods income threshold for those in receipt of Universal Credit. At that time, he committed to providing an update to the Committee on the timing of this legislation once it was available.

I can now confirm that I intend to bring forward regulations later in this financial year to implement this change. These regulations will come into force in February 2024 and, as set out in *Best Start, Bright Futures* will remove the income thresholds for all qualifying benefits, not just Universal Credit. As a result, an additional 20,000 people will be eligible for Best Start Foods.

I trust you and your members will find this update useful.

Yours sincerely,

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**