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Dear Convener

Today we have published our <u>Supplementary Costing: Carer Support Payment –</u> <u>September 2023</u>.

In this report we present an updated forecast for the Scottish Government's Carer Support Payment. Our supplementary costing is to accompany the Carer's Assistance (Carer Support Payment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 that have been laid by the Scottish Government today.

We included a forecast for Carer Support Payment in our May 2023 publication but have now updated the forecast to reflect the effects of the change to the assumed start date of the national launch from spring 2024 to October 2024. We now estimate that the total spending on carer's payments will be £477 million in 2024-25, which is £9 million lower than our previous forecast, and £536 million in 2025-26, which is £10 million lower than our previous forecast. From 2026-27, our forecast is unchanged from the version published in May 2023.

I would be happy to provide any further information that would help the Committee's scrutiny of these regulations.

Yours sincerely

Professor Graeme Roy