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Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 18 January requesting an update on Scottish Carer's Assistance which will replace Carer's Allowance in Scotland.

As set out in the consultation we ran between February and May of last year, when we first launch Scottish Carer's Assistance, we plan to keep much of the benefit criteria the same as Carer's Allowance to make sure that we don't create a 'two-tier system' where carers already getting Carer's Allowance are treated differently from people who have newly applied for Scottish Carer's Assistance. We also set out a number of priority changes for the medium to longer term, including a proposal to increase the time that carers will receive Scottish Carer's Assistance following the death of a cared for person.

My officials have also been working closely to progress work on draft regulations for Scottish Carer's Assistance at launch which will be referred to Scottish Commission on Social Security (SCoSS) for scrutiny in the coming weeks.

I will write to the Committee when the draft regulations and impact assessments are published and will include links to the publications for your reference. I would be happy to speak to the Committee following publication and/or have my officials meet with the Committee as well.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



I am grateful to you and the wider Committee for your input and look forward to updating you again soon.

I have copied this letter to the Social Justice and Social Security Committee and SCoSS for awareness.

Kind regards,



BEN MACPHERSON

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