



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Shirley-Anne Somerville
MSP,
Cabinet Secretary for Social
Justice,
Scottish Government

Social Justice and Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Via email only

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28 March 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Extra cost of disability

As part of its scrutiny work on disability benefits, the Social Justice and Social Security Committee was keen to have Scottish specific information on the additional costs of disability.

In 2023, the Committee commissioned research on this issue. The research was conducted by the University of Strathclyde and the Poverty Alliance. The report is available [here](#).

At its meeting on [21 March 2024](#), the Committee discussed the findings of the research with its authors. They agreed there are many different needs and variations in disability and the research highlighted gaps in data available to achieve a suitable and effective evidence base.

In order to better inform its scrutiny of the extra cost of disability, the Committee would appreciate further information on data and evidence base:

- What is the Scottish Government doing to improve the evidence base on the extra cost of disability to inform both current benefits policy and future consideration of the Minimum Income Guarantee and the review of the Adult Disability Payment?
- What data does the Scottish Government currently collect and hold to achieve an effective evidence base and how is data collected?
- What data gaps does the Scottish Government recognise exist to adequately inform the extra cost of disability and improvements needed to address the issue?
- Is the Scottish Government currently undertaking or planning to undertake research on the extra cost of disability?
- Has the Scottish Government taken a collegiate approach with other bodies such as the Department for Work and Pensions to address data gaps?

A response by 2 May would assist the Committee with its scrutiny work.

Similar correspondence has been sent to the Department for Work and Pensions and COSLA.

Yours sincerely,



Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee