



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
UK Government

**11 October 2024**

Dear Secretary of State,

### Winter Heating Payment

As this is the first occasion I have written to you, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. I hope we will have a close working relationship as we seek to scrutinise the delivery of devolved social security benefits, many of which are delivered through agency agreements and rely on data sharing between the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Social Security Scotland.

I am writing to you about the Winter Heating Payment, which was first introduced in winter 2022-2023 and replaced the DWP Cold Weather Payment.

The Scottish Government has brought to our attention that Social Security Scotland has uncovered that there has been an issue with the data provided by DWP which has resulted in 37,000 eligible clients not receiving the 2023-24 Winter Heating Payment.

The Committee understands that Social Security Scotland is working closely with the DWP to ensure impacted clients receive the payment as soon as possible, with payments being made from 9 October 2024.

As such, the Committee is seeking urgently the Secretary of State's assurance that the current issues have been resolved and that there will be no impact on clients eligible for the 2024-25 Winter Heating Payment in terms of the data needed by Social Security Scotland from DWP to make this year's payments.

It would be helpful to have a response by 1 November as we are aware that the [qualifying week for payment of the Winter Heating Payment is 4-10 November 2024](#). A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, The Scottish Government.

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Contact: Social Justice and Social Security Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email [SJSS.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SJSS.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Stevenson', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Collette Stevenson MSP**  
**Convener**  
**Social Justice and Social Security Committee**