

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

32nd Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Thursday, 24 November

Scottish Benefits Independent Advocacy

Note by the Clerk

1. At its meeting on [30 September 2021](#), the Committee heard from the Minister for Social Security and Local Government as part of its scrutiny of the Social Security (Advocacy Service Standards) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021. You can read the Official Report of the meeting [here](#).
2. At the meeting, the Minister announced the Scottish Government had awarded a four-year contract to VoiceAbility for the provision of an independent advocacy service to support disabled people understand and access Social Security Scotland benefits, as required by the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.
3. VoiceAbility started delivering [its service in Scotland](#) in January 2022. The service can be accessed by anyone who self-identifies as disabled. It is also available for parents, guardians, or carers of a disabled child and for parents, guardians, or carers who are disabled and want support for their child.
4. At its evidence session on 24 November, the Committee will hear from VoiceAbility representatives on the progress of the service since its launch in providing independent advocacy.

Clerks to the Committee

21 November 2022