



Scottish  
Commission  
on Social  
Security

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23 April 2020

Bob Doris MSP  
Convener  
Social Security Committee

By email only

Dear Convener,

I hope that you and your fellow committee Members are well at this very challenging time. I am writing to provide, for the Committee's consideration, SCoSS's response to a letter from the Cabinet Secretary in which she set out the implications of Covid-19 for the delivery of social security benefits and for our work.

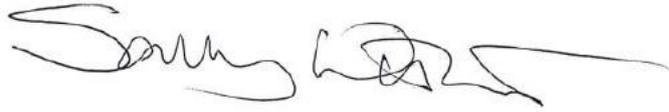
As you will see, our over-riding concern is to consider how SCoSS can best add value and provide support at this time of considerable uncertainty. We have made a number of practical suggestions while making it clear that we do not wish to make any request that would generate unnecessary additional work for the Scottish Government or for Social Security Scotland.

SCoSS members were disappointed to be unable to provide oral evidence to the Committee on our scrutiny report on the draft Child Disability Payment regulations. However, we will respond to the Committee's request for further information on our report and thank you for extending the deadline for doing so, which will allow us to consider our response at our May board meeting.

This is an example of how our working practices are already adjusting, which may continue to be the case even as the current situation eases. I would be pleased to discuss how we could best support the Committee's work at this time, to understand whether there are any issues that the Committee would wish to refer to SCoSS, or to provide further

information on our work plan. I will also forward a copy of the Cabinet Secretary's response to my letter.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Witcher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Sally Witcher OBE  
Chair of the Scottish Commission on Social Security