



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Dr Sally Witcher, OBE
Chair, Scottish Commission on Social
Security
c/o Secretariat
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Email: info@socialsecuritycommission.scot

26 November 2020

Dear Dr Witcher

Thank you for your scrutiny report of 20 November on the Scottish Child Payment Amendment Regulations 2021. I want to extend my sincere thanks to the Commission for looking at the Amendment Regulations in very short time given your already packed programme of work.

As you are aware, we opened the Scottish Child Payment for applications for under sixes on 9 November and I am delighted to say that initial management information indicates that, by the end of the first week (Sunday 15 November), over 33,000 applications were received. This Payment is needed now more than ever, given the ongoing pandemic, and it could help up to 194,000 children in this financial year, with payments from the end of February 2021.

As you will have noted from my Parliamentary statement last week, my ambition remains to roll out the Scottish Child Payment to under 16s by the end of 2022, as we recognise the profound positive impact it will have on tackling child poverty. But in order to deliver the payment on time we are dependent on the Department for Work and Pensions giving us the data we need on 6 to 16 year old children.

The Commission's comments on the Amendments Regulations are very helpful, and I am confident that by clarifying in legislation our policy intent in regard to nil awards and payment cycles, this will improve the client journey and also make our position clearer to local partners.

I am attaching a copy of the Scottish Government's response to SCoSS's recommendations which I have also copied to the Conveners of the Social Security and Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committees. Thank you again for your continued support and efforts at this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE