

*SOCIAL SECURITY (SCOTLAND) BILL 2017*

**OFFICIALS BILL MANAGEMENT  
MEETING**

28 MARCH 2016

# ***SCOPE AND CONTENT***

The content of the Bill falls under 3 general headings: -

1. Principles
2. Legislative Machinery
3. Scottish benefits

# ***SCOPE AND CONTENT***

## **Key Points:-**

- The Bill is being delivered in parallel with the early stages of a 5 year implementation programme, to deliver a new Scottish social security agency before the end of this Parliamentary term. Provisions in the Bill need to keep step with a service-design process which is ongoing and will not be completed until well into the Parliamentary process.
- One of the effects of the Bill will be, in due course, to introduce £2.7 billion of (mostly) demand-driven spending to the Scottish budget. This will create new and complex financial risks and interdependencies

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT – 1. Principles***

- The first thing the Bill will do is embed in legislation the principles of the Scottish social security system, including a commitment to a human-rights based approach.
- It will require the production of a charter which is informed by the principles; and
- It will require the Government to report to the Parliament on their delivery against the charter.

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT – 2. Legislative Machinery***

- The Bill will also set out the basic machinery through which the Government will provide social security dealing with everything from applications through to appeals.
- A significant amount of the existing, UK legislation provides an administrative background to delivery of individual benefits, and we think that some of this should be replicated, with amendments where appropriate.
- Work to develop operational policy is ongoing but we will need provision for general benefits administration - e.g. a requirement to apply and powers to prescribe how applications are to be made and what is to happen to them, and how payments are to be made. Also the ability of the delivery agency to revisit awards that have been made and about length of awards.

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT – 3. Scottish Benefits***

- The Bill will then define the types of social security assistance which the Government will give (i.e. benefits in the areas being devolved by sections 22, 23 and 25 of the SA 2016).
- This part of the Bill will give a brief description of each of type of assistance, and confer powers on the Government to set out the rules for eligibility and entitlement in subordinate legislation.

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT – 3. Scottish Benefits***

- **The benefits being devolved and which will be covered by the Bill are:-**
- Ill Health and Disability Benefits. Currently these are Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Attendance Allowance (AA), Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB).
- Benefits for carers, currently Carer's Allowance (CA).
- Benefits for maternity expenses, currently the Social Fund Sure Start Maternity Grants.
- Benefits for funeral expenses, currently provided as a Social Fund payment.
- Cold Weather Payments and annual Winter Fuel Payments
- Discretionary Housing Payments.

# ***STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT***

## **What we've done so far:**

- Our **Consultation on Social Security in Scotland** ran from 29 July 2016 to 28 October 2016.
- In addition to the formal consultation process, many hundreds more people with direct experience of the system engaged with us at over 120 events across all 32 local authority areas, organised in partnership with key organisations.
- A total of 521 responses were received, 280 from individuals and 241 from organisations. Respondents represented a wide range of individuals and organisations with knowledge and experience of, or an interest in social security matters.



# ***STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT***

## **What we're doing now:**

- We are recruiting 2,000 people into our **Experience Panels**
- This means inviting people in receipt of the benefits to be devolved to work with us in designing the new system.
- The process of recruitment to the Experience Panels includes an option to complete an online or paper form, with materials prepared with help from Inclusion Scotland and an initial focus group, or a telephone helpline with provision for people who are either British Sign Language users, deaf or hearing impaired, or whose first language is not English.
- Call handlers have also been trained by Independent Living Fund Scotland who have extensive experience of providing customer service to disabled people.

# ***STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT***

## **What we're doing in the future:**

•We propose a series of activities to support engagement around the introduction of the Bill including:

**1.Summits** in late April early May.

**2.Roundtable meetings** in May and early June.

**3.One to one meetings with the Minister** in June