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Minister for Social Security
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18 September 2017

LOCATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

I am pleased to write to you following the First Minister's announcement today that your city will be one of the locations for the central administrative functions of the Scottish social security agency.

The approach to assessment adopted is continuation of the same detailed multi-criteria approach that was used for determining the agency operating model which I announced to Parliament in April this year. In tandem to my statement I will publish on the Scottish Government website the supporting locational analysis which outlines the evidence and process followed in making our decision. This can be accessed at:

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

The process demonstrated that there should be two equally sized administrative offices in order to spread the economic opportunity and ensure business continuity. You will be aware that there is a requirement to move at pace ensure that the agency is operationally ready to delivery of the first wave of benefits in 2018-19. Glasgow, aside from scoring well in the analysis, has been chosen as it has good transport links which combined with pre-existing infrastructure will give the new agency immediate access to a large recruitment pool and suitable office space with which to start operations.

I have instructed senior officials to start speaking to you now on how we work collaboratively to deliver on the new agency's requirements.

In addition to the central administrative offices a key priority for the new agency will be to provide access to services in a way that best suits the people it serves. I will make an announcement to Parliament tomorrow giving more information on how the agency will be configured. This will include more detail on a commitment to an enhanced face to face delivery model which will provide advice and support at a local level.

I have asked that our central administrative offices are designed to be front facing and accessible to the local community in which they are located. The front facing nature of the central offices is to augment the agency's objective of having a presence in every local authority in Scotland. Agency staff will be based locally to provide advice and support in places where people recognise and already visit. More information will be provided in my announcement but the enhanced local delivery model ensures that new jobs are not confined to Dundee and Glasgow.

These announcements on local delivery and agency locations mark another milestone in our work and allows us to advance with the more detailed design of the agency, its operations and the practicalities involved in delivering social security. In doing so we will continue to engage with our stakeholders, experts and volunteers from the Experience Panels to ensure that as the agency delivers our aim of a social security system that treats people with fairness, dignity and respect.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeane', written in a cursive style.

JEANE FREEMAN