

**Mark Griffin**  
**S5W-20557**

**To ask the Scottish Government how many applications have been received for the best start grant, and how many of these are for a third or greater child.**

**[redacted]**

### Background

1. **Mark Griffin MSP**, is Labour member for Central Scotland, Shadow Community Minister and Party Whip and is currently a member of the Social Security Committee. He is a member of a number of Cross Party Groups including those for Deafness, and Heart Disease and Stroke. He has lodged three previous questions relating to Best Start Grant since the start of December 2018 including:

S5W-20405 To ask the Scottish Government whether the processes required to assess applications and make payments of the Best Start Grant baby and pregnancy payments will be automated or manual.

S5W-20403 To ask the Scottish Government whether applications for the Best Start Grant baby and pregnancy payments will be provided to new mothers in hospital.

S5W-20402 To ask the Scottish Government what application methods have been made available for applications for Best Start Grant baby and pregnancy payments.

2. Application level data will be extracted from agency systems from early 2019, which will allow analysis of applications by number of children, and quality assurance of the applications figures. Official statistics including total applications and applications by number of children will be published in 2019, once this data has been quality assured, according to a pre-announced publication schedule.

**[redacted – out of scope]**

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Over 4,000 applications were received for Best Start Grant on the first day applications opened. That is around the same number of UK Government Sure Start Maternity Grants, which Best Start Grant replaces, for the whole of 2017-18 in Scotland. Statistics will be published which will provide the total number of applications received and payments made in 2019, this will include applications for a third or greater child.

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