

The Scottish Child Payment (Income Supplement) question and answers

How does this new benefit fit into the overall programme of work we are delivering?

Teams from across the Social Security including colleagues in Scottish Government Policy, Programme, Chief Digital Office and Social Security Scotland have been exploring a range of different policy and delivery options for this new benefit over the past year. Following this assessment, it was agreed that our Programme colleagues would develop this new service and that it will be delivered by Social Security Scotland.

When reviewing our existing timeline for introduction of new benefits, it was established that the most feasible option would be to introduce this ahead of the first disability benefits.

To make sure that we are still able to introduce all of these benefits in the most safe and steady way possible, we will be delaying the introduction of disability benefits.

Today's announcement mean that the new timeline for our benefits will be:

Department for Work and Pensions benefit	Our replacement benefit	Available from
Disability Living Allowance (child)	Disability Assistance for Children and Young people	Summer 2020
Attendance Allowance	Disability Assistance for Older People	Early 2021
Personal Independence Payments	Disability Assistance for Working Age People	Early 2021
Carer's Allowance	Carer's Assistance	Early 2022
Winter Fuel Payment	Winter Heating Assistance	End 2021
Cold Weather Payment	Cold Spell – Winter Heating Assistance	Winter 2021

[Redacted - s.30(c) – Otherwise Prejudice Effective Conduct of Public Affairs]

What is the new benefit?

The Scottish Child Payment will be a regular cash payment to families on low incomes. This is an important part of Ministers' wider commitment to tackle child poverty and meet the statutory targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017.

- on launch for children up to 6 and over time we will extend eligibility up to 16
- It will be a monthly payment equivalent to £10 per week per child
- It will be for families on certain benefits and tax credits
- Families will need to apply to receive this similar to our Best Start Grant applications.

Does this mean more jobs in Social Security Scotland?

Yes, we will need more people to deliver this new benefit and we're currently working through what all of these requirements will be.

We expect there to be further large scale recruitments for benefits to be introduced from 2020 throughout the remainder of this year.

Where will the jobs be based?

We are still in the early stages of assessing how many people will be needed to administer this new benefit and as part of that we will be looking at where people will be based. As soon as we have further information we will communicate the outcomes.

Will there be more senior jobs – such as increasing the number of Deputy Directors that are currently being recruited?

We are still in the recruitment process for our new three Deputy Directors and we will update on the outcomes in due course. The structure that is being put in place was designed to create capacity for growth and as we become a larger and more complex organisation.. However, as with anything, as we gain a better understanding of the new benefit and the requirements it places on us this can be reviewed

Does this mean we will move sooner to a more permanent site with more office space?

The property review by Michael Laird Architects (MLA) is still on track, gathering our requirements to inform what our more permanent sites will look like. There is no change at this time to our delivery timescales.

We will publish a property strategy this December.

Will the support areas such as training, risk, governance etc be increased due to the additional benefit?

We are still in the early stages of assessing how many people will be needed to administer this new benefit across all of Social Security Scotland and what areas these people will sit in.

Why was the announcement made by Aileen Campbell rather than our Cabinet Secretary, Ms Somerville?

Aileen Campbell is the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and she is responsible for tackling poverty in Scotland. The new benefit aims to meet our commitment to tackle child poverty and meet the statutory targets set out in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. Over the past year, teams from across policy, programme and communities analysis have been exploring a range of different

policy and delivery options for the supplement using our new devolved powers on social security. During that time we have been advising Ms Campbell and Ms Somerville on the art of the possible, and the outcome of those discussions was shared with Parliament. The First Minister and Cabinet have also been closely involved, given that funding the supplement will lie at the heart of Government spending decisions in the years ahead.

Is there anyone from Social Security Scotland already working on the new benefit?

[Redacted - s.38(1)(b) – Personal Information] will be the Project Manager for the new benefit, working with each business area to develop the plan to deliver this work and understand the risks and dependencies associated with it. Members of the Senior Leadership Team have been fully involved in discussions about the Scottish Child Payment.

[Redacted - s.38(1)(b) – Personal Information] previously led the Agency Set-up Project team in Social Security Directorate ahead of the run up to becoming an official Executive Agency in September 2018. Since then, **[Redacted - s.38(1)(b) – Personal Information]** team have been acting as our main interface with the Social Security Programme, ensuring that we as an Agency are prepared for the introduction of each new benefit and impact assessing any potential changes across all of our business areas.

[Redacted - s.38(1)(b) – Personal Information] was asked to take on this Project Management role for Scottish Child Payment given his vast experience in working with the Programme, coordination across Social Security Scotland and his key role in our successful implementation work to date. This will allow this project to move at pace and ensure we are ready to deliver this new benefit.