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██████████
██████████ Poverty and Inequality Commission

Sent by email to:

██████████ ██████████@povertyinequality.scot

8th June 2020

Dear ██████████

Following my correspondence of 9 March, I have attached written updates relating to the priority areas identified by the Poverty and Inequality Commission to facilitate scrutiny of efforts to tackle child poverty in 2019-20.

As you know, the events of recent months and the escalation of the country wide response to the Covid-19 pandemic has meant considerable changes for all of us. I am therefore grateful of your understanding in postponing this scrutiny, allowing officials to focus on the government's response to this crisis.

The situation continues to develop and as such we must all be innovative and agile in our response. This means that timescales for certain work, including the 2019-20 Progress Report, may need to be revised at short notice as issues emerge. Should any further changes or delays be required, then I would be grateful if you could keep officials informed – my officials will do the same.

The pandemic has also meant that changes to our proposed delivery of key support has been subject to delay, and as we progress out of lockdown and into recovery phase, I am aware that delivery may need strengthened or revised in its entirety to ensure we actively respond to emerging need.

As a government we will continue to monitor the situation and to do our absolute utmost for the people and communities we collectively serve and in particular those that are most vulnerable who need to know their government is there for them in words and actions.

Tackling child poverty is and continues to be a priority for us all, and in times of crisis the need to tackle child poverty comes into ever sharper focus.

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



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If the Commission would like to receive further information on specific actions from this briefing please contact my officials in the Social Justice Strategy Unit who will be happy to assist. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.



AILEEN CAMPBELL

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Sent: 04 June 2020 13:41
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser); [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Cc: [REDACTED] (Tackling Poverty)
Subject: RE: GIQ re child poverty progress report - Lib Dem PQ now lodged

Will do.

[REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Tel: 0131 [REDACTED]
Blackberry: [REDACTED]

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2020 13:13
To: [REDACTED] gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] (Tackling Poverty) [REDACTED] gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GIQ re child poverty progress report - Lib Dem PQ now lodged

[REDACTED] Let's see if can do today now that we have that PQ.

[REDACTED] can you chase the child poverty GIQ so can see if can get signed off so can be issued asap please. can't remember who I suggested. Keith brown or Shona Robison would now be my preference though.

Thanks
JC

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2020 11:26
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] (Tackling Poverty) [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GIQ re child poverty progress report - Lib Dem PQ now lodged

I chased Cab Sec yesterday as I've heard nothing back yet, your previous steer was after the debate – so we could go for Wednesday the 10th?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Child Poverty [REDACTED] | Social Justice Strategy | Social Justice and Regeneration Division | Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay 4 – c/o Atlantic Quay 5, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU | Tel: +44 (0)300 [REDACTED]

Every Child, Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22 – www.gov.scot/EveryChild

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2020 11:25
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] (Tackling Poverty) [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: GIQ re child poverty progress report - Lib Dem PQ now lodged

[redacted]

When is GIQ issuing?

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2020 11:20
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] (Tackling Poverty) [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: GIQ re child poverty progress report - Lib Dem PQ now lodged

Hi Jeanette,

So you're aware, the PQ below from Lib Dems has now been lodged asking when the child poverty progress report will be published – the expected answer date is 17 June, PO deadline 10 June.

[redacted]

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] Child Poverty [redacted] | Social Justice Strategy | Social Justice and Regeneration Division |
Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay 4 – c/o Atlantic Quay 5, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU | Tel: +44 (0)300
[redacted]

Every Child, Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22 – www.gov.scot/EveryChild

From: [redacted]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox
Sent: 04 June 2020 11:14
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] (Tackling Poverty) [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>
Subject: PQ - S5W-29642 - Deadline Date 10th June

Hello

I would appreciate it if you could take a look at the below PQ and let me know if this is for your area?

[S5W-29642](#) Beatrice Wishart: To ask the Scottish Government when the 2019-20 child poverty report will be published.

PQ deadline is – 10/06/2020

If not your area, grateful if you could let me know why and point me in the right direction of who you think may be able to lead.

Thank you in advance

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Support Officer Corporate Assurance Team Scottish Government, Room 1N.04. St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

[REDACTED] [gov.scot](#)

My work pattern is Monday to Thursday

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 May 2020 16:41
To: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Cc: Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans; Permanent Secretary; DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director for Housing and Social Justice; Tyrer P (Paul); [REDACTED] (Tackling Poverty); [REDACTED] PartyClerk Scotland; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser)
Subject: Routine submission - delaying child poverty progress report - GIQ for consideration and publication
Attachments: GIQ Submission - delaying child poverty progress report - 26 May 2020.doc

[REDACTED]

Please find attached a routine submission requesting Ms Campbell's consideration of a draft Government Initiated Question to notify Parliament of the delayed publication of the 2019-20 child poverty progress report.

As outlined, this is routine, however SpAds have advised that the GIQ should either be published immediately or after the SG led debate on 9 June 2020 – the GIQ should not be published next week in the run up to the debate.

Should any changes be required please let me know.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Child Poverty [REDACTED] Social Justice Strategy | Social Justice and Regeneration Division | Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay 4 – c/o Atlantic Quay 5, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU | Tel: +44 (0)300 [REDACTED]

Every Child, Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22 – www.gov.scot/EveryChild

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

[REDACTED]
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

Cc:

[REDACTED] (Tackling Poverty); [REDACTED]

Subject:

RE: Routine submission - Preparation of 2019-20 progress report on child poverty - for consideration by 24 April

Attachments:

Cab Sec CLG - letter to [REDACTED] - PIC - re annual scrutiny - 21 May 2020.docx; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As requested I have now redrafted a short covering letter and changes have been made to the package of updates – summarised below. Together these make clear the future plans are subject to change – with programmes subject to strengthening, refocus and revision dependent upon emerging need.

Grateful if this could be issued to allow scrutiny to commence. When sending please copy to [REDACTED] of the Commission secretariat.

I will shortly prepare and send a proposed GIQ announcing delay to the progress report this year.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Child Poverty [REDACTED] | Social Justice Strategy | Social Justice and Regeneration Division | Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay 4 – c/o Atlantic Quay 5, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU | Tel: +44 (0)300 [REDACTED]

Every Child, Every Chance: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-22 – www.gov.scot/EveryChild

Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

DELAY OF 2019-20 CHILD POVERTY PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose

1. To seek your approval for a Government Initiated Question (GIQ) to notify the Scottish Parliament of delays to the publication of the “2019-20 Second Annual Progress Report on Child Poverty”.

Priority

2. Routine

Background

3. As per my submission of 16 April 2020, the annual progress report on child poverty, covering the period 2019-20, is required to be published by the end of June 2020. To fully comply with the requirements of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, in preparing the report Scottish Ministers must consult the Poverty and Inequality Commission – the information to enable this scrutiny is awaiting final clearance before issued.

4. Given the unprecedented impact of Coronavirus officials across SG have been redeployed to focus on the response to the virus. This includes officials within the Social Justice Strategy Unit who have been working on the £350 million package of communities funding, including delivery of priority funding for national partners and food funding, and the support offer for individuals who are Non-Shielded at Risk.

5. The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 accounts for redeployment of this nature and provides for the delay of compliance with reporting duties. The Act outlines the criteria for doing so:

“The Scottish Ministers or the Scottish public authority may decide to postpone complying with the duty if they or, as the case may be, it are of the view that complying would be likely to impede their or, as the case may be, its ability to take effective action to prevent, protect against, delay or otherwise control the incidence or transmission of coronavirus”

6. This advice is provided as per your indication of 5 May that you are content to delay the progress report on this basis.

GIQ Text

7. The below draft GIQ has been prepared, and Special Advisors have nominated Bob Doris to log the question:

Question: To ask the Scottish Government by what date the second annual progress report on child poverty will be published.

Answer: Due to the unprecedented impact of Coronavirus we have made the difficult decision to delay preparation and publication of the 2019-20 Progress Report on Child Poverty, which was required by end June 2020.

This has allowed officials to focus efforts on protecting communities from the impacts of the virus in line with the powers provided by the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

We will consult with the Poverty and Inequality Commission in relation to progress made and the further progress required, ensuring they have the time they need to consider this request.

Tackling child poverty remains an absolute priority and we are committed to publishing the report as soon as reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

Timing for GIQ

8. The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act outlines that the notification to delay should be provided before the date the report is due, or as soon as possible afterwards. Special Advisors have indicated the GIQ should be published immediately, or following the SG led debate on 9 June 2020.

Recommendation

9. You are invited to approve, if content, the draft GIQ.

██████████
Social Justice Strategy Unit
██████████

26 May 2020

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Minister for Parliamentary Business					X

Permanent Secretary

DG Education, Communities and Justice
Director for Housing and Social Justice
Paul Tyrer



Parly Clerks
Jeanette Campbell