

Document One

From: [Redacted under section 38]

Sent: 23 September 2021 09:54

To: [Redacted under section 38]

Cc: [Redacted under section 38]

Subject: RE: URGENT Oral PQ - S6O-00213, S6O-00215 & S6O-00216 - Due 12pm noon Friday

Hi [Redacted under section 38]

- 7) We don't currently have a LA or constituency level assessment of the £20 cut.
 - a. Stat-xplore only reports household payments in bandings (e.g. £0.01 - £100, £100 - £200)

[Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

- 8) That £461 million figure is what we have published ([Impact of reserved benefit policies on expenditure in Scotland: analysis - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)) so that (or any other analysis from that paper) would be the best to use.

[Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

Thanks,

[Redacted under section 38]

From: [Redacted under section 38]

Sent: 23 September 2021 08:27

To: [Redacted under section 38]

Cc: [Redacted under section 38]

Subject: FW: URGENT Oral PQ - S6O-00213, S6O-00215 & S6O-00216 - Due 12pm noon Friday

Hi [Redacted under section 38]

Earlier this morning we had a couple of PQs come in on the theme of the pending UC cut and I wanted to run a couple of things by you on these:

7. Willie Coffey: To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact that the £20 reduction to universal credit could have on households in Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley. ([S6O-00215](#))

[Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

8. Carol Mochan: To ask the Scottish Government what measures it has taken to address the consequences of the reduction of universal credit and any potential impact on child poverty. ([S6O-00216](#))

[Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

Thanks,

[Redacted under section 38]

[Out of scope]

Document Two

From: [Redacted under section 38]

Sent: 07 June 2021 15:01

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
<CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Security and Local Government
<MinisterSSLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Kerr S (Stephen) (Social Security Director) <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Davidson I (Ian) (CA) <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted under section 38]MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted under section 38]MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Hawkins L (Liz) <Liz.Hawkins@gov.scot>; [Redacted under section 38]Tyrer P (Paul) <Paul.Tyrer@gov.scot>; Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
Minister for Social Security and Local Government

IMPACTS OF REMOVING THE £20 PER WEEK BENEFIT UPLIFT – ROUTINE – FOR INFORMATION

Please find attached a routine submission outlining the available evidence on the impact of the UK Government's planned removal of the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit.

This is for information only and no decision is required. We would be happy to discuss any of the contents.

Kind regards,

[Redacted under section 38]

Document Three

From: [Redacted under section 38]
Sent: 06 October 2021 10:53
To: [Redacted under section 38]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38]
Subject: RE: URGENT: UC cut reactive lines

Colleagues

Thank you all for turning this around so quickly. For awareness, we issued the statement below, referencing FM's comments from interviews she conducted on Monday, as well as the background note.

Kind regards

[Redacted under section 38]

First Minister's comments on UC uplift withdrawal:

We have a limited devolved budget – common sense tells you that we cannot keep dipping into a devolved budget that's there to pay for health and education, limited social security and to mitigate the impact of cuts in reserved benefits.

Common sense tells you that however much we'd love to be able to do that, it simply isn't possible to do. This is a decision of the UKG – it is a morally indefensible decision.

It's going to push thousands of people into poverty. It's going to leave many parents unable to feed their children. Over the weekend, I joined with the First Ministers of Wales and Northern Ireland – quite an unusual step – to call on the Prime Minister not to go ahead with this cut.

Let's keep the focus where it should be – on the politicians and the UK Government making this cut. They're the ones with the power and the resources to stop it and that's where our focus should continue to be.

Background

- The cost of the Scottish Government mitigating the UK Government's cut is not sustainable. Our analysis indicates that it would cost over £460 million per year by 2023/24 to cover the cost of the £20-per-week cut.
- We work within a fixed budget and do not have borrowing powers or other powers that would allow us to fully tackle poverty including social security and employment

From: [Redacted under section 38]
Sent: 06 October 2021 10:24
To: [Redacted under section 38]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38]
Subject: RE: URGENT: UC cut reactive lines

[Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

From: [Redacted under section 38]
Sent: 06 October 2021 10:11
To: [Redacted under section 38]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38]
Subject: URGENT: UC cut reactive lines

Thanks [Redacted under section 38]

[Redacted under section 38], [Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

Kind regards

[Redacted under section 38]

Query

As I mentioned on the phone, a caller on BBC Radio Scotland's Mornings with Kaye Adams phone-in stated that "Nicola Sturgeon knew the £20 UC uplift was only temporary and would end. She has the legal power, under devolution to reverse this decision by increasing income tax."

Please could I get a response to the statement that the Scottish Government has the power to keep the additional £20 a week Universal Credit uplift.

From: [Redacted under section 38]
Sent: 06 October 2021 10:06
To: [Redacted under section 38]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38]
Subject: UC cut reactive lines
Importance: High

Hi [Redacted under section 38],

[Redacted under section 30(b)(ii)]

Thanks,

[Redacted under section 38]

Document Four

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 16 July 2021 02:03

To: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Cc: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

Hi both,

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

Hope this helps!

[Redacted under section 38]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 15 July 2021 17:57

To: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Cc: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

Hi **[Redacted under section 38]**,

I've gone through all the relevant emails and files:

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

Let me know what you think – happy to dig around further or run **[Redacted under section 38]**code myself.

[Redacted under section 38]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 15 July 2021 12:46

To: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Cc: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Subject: FW: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

Hi **[Redacted under section 38]**

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

Many thanks,

[Redacted under section 38]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 15 July 2021 12:36

To: **[Redacted under section 38]** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Security and Local Government <MinisterSSLG@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]**

Cc: Kerr S (Stephen) (Social Security Director) <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Davidson I (Ian) (CA) <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot> **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

[Redacted under section 38] MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 09 June 2021 11:24

To: **[Redacted under section 38]** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Security and Local Government <MinisterSSLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Kerr S (Stephen) (Social Security Director) <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Davidson I (Ian) (CA) <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

[Redacted under section 38] MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 09 June 2021 11:21

To: **[Redacted under section 38]**; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Security and Local Government <MinisterSSLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Kerr S (Stephen) (Social Security Director) <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Davidson I (Ian) (CA) <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

[Redacted under section 38] MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift - for information

Hi **[Redacted under section 38]** ,

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

Regards,

[Redacted under section 38]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 07 June 2021 19:34

To: **[Redacted under section 38]** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice,
Housing & Local Government <CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Social
Security and Local Government <MinisterSSLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Kerr S (Stephen) (Social Security Director) <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Davidson
I (Ian) (CA) <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]** MacDougall
A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]**
MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section
38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit
uplift - for information

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

Thanks

[Redacted under section 38]

[Redacted under section 30(b)(iii)]

From: **[Redacted under section 38]**

Sent: 07 June 2021 15:01

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
<CabSecSJHLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Social Security and Local Government
<MinisterSSLG@gov.scot>

Cc: Kerr S (Stephen) (Social Security Director) <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Davidson
I (Ian) (CA) <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under section 38]**
MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted under
section 38]** MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; **[Redacted
under section 38]** Director for Housing and Social Justice
<DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: Routine submission - Impacts of removing the £20 per week benefit uplift -
for information

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
Minister for Social Security and Local Government

IMPACTS OF REMOVING THE £20 PER WEEK BENEFIT UPLIFT – ROUTINE –
FOR INFORMATION

Please find attached a routine submission outlining the available evidence on the
impact of the UK Government's planned removal of the £20 per week uplift to
Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit.

This is for information only and no decision is required. We would be happy to
discuss any of the contents.

Kind regards,

[Redacted under section 38]

Document Five

1. From: **[Redacted under section 38]**
07 June 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing & Local Government
Minister for Social Security and Local Government

IMPACTS OF REMOVING THE £20 PER WEEK BENEFIT UPLIFT

Purpose

1. To inform you of the latest analysis on the impact of the UK Government's planned removal of the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Priority

2. Routine. This is for information only and no decision is required.

Background

3. In April 2020, the UK Government increased the main rates of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit by the equivalent of £20 per week to cushion the economic impacts of Covid-19. Among other measures, it also suspended the Minimum Income Floor in order to increase Universal Credit payments to self-employed workers on low incomes (the Minimum Income Floor limits Universal Credit payments to self-employed workers earnings less than the equivalent of the Minimum Wage).

4. The UK Government originally planned to withdraw these measures in April 2021. However, in his 2021 budget speech the Chancellor announced that the £20 uplift would continue for another six months. Claimants of Working Tax Credit received a one-off, pro-rata payment in April, while the uplift to Universal Credit is now planned to continue until September 2021. Meanwhile the Minimum Income Floor is due to be gradually reinstated in August.

Impacts

[Redacted under section 27]

[Out of scope]

Recommendation

5. To note the analysis summarised above.

[Redacted under section 38] «Date»

2. Copy List:	3. or Action	4. or Comments	5. For Information		
			6. Portfolio Interest	7. Constit Interest	8. General Awareness
9. Minister for Social Security and Local Government 10. 11. Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing, and Local Government 12.	13.	14.	15. 16. 17. 18. 19.	20.	21.

22. Stephen Kerr, Social Security 23. Ian Davidson, Social Security Policy 24. [Redacted under section 38] 25. Audrey MacDougall, CAD 26. [Redacted under section 38]

27.