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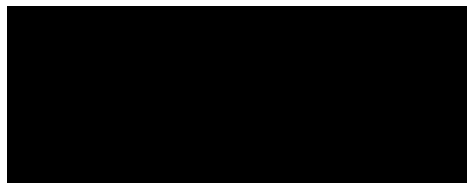
Dear Beth Friel,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2023 to Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice inviting her to meet with you to discuss issues surrounding unpaid carers and the 'underlying entitlement' rule.

Unfortunately, due to diary clashes Ms Somerville is unable to meet with you at this time. Please accept her apologies and best wishes for a successful event.

The Cabinet Secretary's officials are available to attend the event to ensure that the discussion contributes to ongoing policy development.

Yours sincerely,



PRIVATE SECRETARY