

**FOI – 202300383140 – deadline - 28/11/2023**

- All correspondence between special advisers, civil servants, officials and anyone involved in preparing the original response to the FOI request ref: 202300372279.

Colour code for exemptions applied:

Exempt-25(1)	<a href="#">Section 25 (Information otherwise accessible) – provided in response to original FOI</a>
redacted–30(b)(i)	<a href="#">Section 30(b)(i) (free and frank provision of advice)</a>
redacted–30(b)(ii)	<a href="#">Section 30(b)(ii) (free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation)</a>
redacted–38(1)(b)	<a href="#">Section 38(1)(b) (personal information)</a>
out of scope	Information is not in scope of original request

1	<a href="#">29 August 2023</a>	<a href="#">Official to Official email gathering documents</a>
2	<a href="#">5 September 2023</a>	<a href="#">Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes – Private Rented Sector Team</a>
3	<a href="#">5 September 2023</a>	<a href="#">Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes with nil return - Social Housing Team</a>
4	<a href="#">5 September 2023</a>	<a href="#">Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes with nil return – Equality Unit</a>
5	<a href="#">6 September 2023</a>	<a href="#">Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes with links – Social Security</a>
6	<a href="#">15 September 2023</a>	<a href="#">Official to Official email for clearance</a>

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**1 - 29 August 2023 - Official to Official email gathering documents**

**From:** redacted–38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 29 August 2023 09:14  
**To:** redacted–38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi,

I made a start on this but haven't had time to pull together a list of all of the meetings yet – I will do that today or tomorrow though.

General Papers

[Fund to leave overview - March 2023 \(A43104161\)](#)

[Submission - funding for financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse 'fund to leave' - June 2023 \(A43990293\)](#)

[Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[DA Imp Group - financial support follow up - 18 August 2022 \(A40308714\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

out of scope

[SWA](#)

[DA Imp Group - financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse - email from Jo Ozga about proposal - 28 February 2022 \(A36827741\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[SG, SWA, CIH catch up 22 February 2023. \(A42656585\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[FMQ - SWA - cost of leaving - 19 December 2022 \(A41606451\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[DA Imp Group - Fund to Leave - info from SWA - 22 February 2023 \(A43095325\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[Fund to Leave - Development paper with SWA input - 10 July 2023 \(A44428719\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[Mr McLennan Introductory meeting with Scottish Women's Aid - 11/08/23 \(A44854532\)](#) [Exempt-25\(1\)](#) – provided in original FOI

[DA Imp Group - gendered impact of cost of living crisis - updated paper - 1 September 2022 \(A40467873\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

[Five Family Payments Meeting with Engender and SWA - 17 August 2022 - note of meeting \(A40353454\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

out of scope

out of scope

out of scope

out of scope

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b)

| Directorate for Local Government and Housing |  
Better Homes Division | The Scottish Government | Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8JX

**From:** redacted–38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 23 August 2023 08:57

**To:** redacted–38(1)(b)

**Subject:** FOI

Hi redacted–38(1)(b)

If you are able to look through these erdm file for any of the info below I would be ever so grateful I 😊 maybe search for both fund to leave and financial support? this overview might also be helpful as it has links to some of the emails? [Fund to leave overview - March 2023 \(A43104161\)](#)

[Homelessness: Financial support to leave an abusive partner fund: 2023-2028 \(qA1616765\) \(electronic folder\)](#)

[Homelessness: Prevention Pathways: Domestic Abuse: 2023-2024 \(qA1598772\) \(electronic folder\)](#)

[Homelessness: Prevention Pathways: 2020 - Domestic Abuse: 2020-2021 \(qA1057987\) \(electronic folder\)](#)

Case Reference: 202300372279 - Final Reply Deadline - 15/09/2023

Under Freedom of Information law, I wish to acquire the following information:

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with Scottish Women's Aid on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund.

out of scope

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b)

## Fund to leave overview - March 2023

### **Fund to leave – Discussion Paper**

#### Recommendation

*Financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse - The Scottish Government should explore options for a dedicated support fund, or entitlements with clear guidance and capable of delivering short-term recurring payments, to support women leaving an abusive partner. This should include essential crisis costs to enable a woman to leave and to bridge the gap between leaving and the first Universal Credit payment.*

1. Whilst we have had previous meetings with SWA, CPAG and Engender about the fund to leave nothing has been agreed or a way forward determined. This issue is frequently raised by these stakeholders via social media or during ministerial meetings, therefore, we are meeting to discuss the next steps needed to move this recommendation forward.
2. We need to establish if there is any budget that can be used for this purpose, preferably a joint approach from Homelessness and Equalities (VAWG). Is there any other policy area that we could approach for budget considerations (child poverty?)
3. If money can be identified, should we focus on a pilot? Other things to be considered are a delivery method i.e. something similar to the tenant grant fund, which was delivered by local authorities? Is this something that can be done as part of Equally Safe or DES (not sure how this works so maybe not?)

**Comment:** TGF was paid to LAs through redetermination of general revenue grant and had non-statutory guidance to aid its administration. It was not ringfenced and the instruction letters were by agreement involving ALACHO, COSLA, SG and some LAs. LA capacity to administer will need to be considered

4. CPAG and SWA have provided info on what the payment should cover and how much a standard UC payment is which could be a starting point as a way to calculate how much a payment could potentially be.

5. In the briefing provided by CPAG they state:

A new payment could bridge this existing gap in the social security system. A new payment should meet the following minimum objectives:

- Provide an income from the date of leaving until the first payment of universal credit (and Scottish child payment)
- Be capable of being applied for prospectively without alerting a partner.
- Not undermine the claimant's privacy with other agencies or criminal justice bodies.
- Cover all children living with the claimant before and after separating from a partner.
- Meet immediate costs such as new accommodation, clothes replacement and food.
- Help a victim-survivor to prepare to leave their present home.
- Support adjustments to independence.
- Be compatible with payments to reflect additional costs and needs including for disabled women with higher living costs.
- Include a recurring payment element to support adjustment period for a designated time period before income or income replacement is available.
- Include a grant element to cover one off / initial costs such as clothing, toys or furniture.

It is also imperative that the new fund can support migrant women. CPAG's Early Warning System identifies migrant destitution as a consistent issue, including women who are EU nationals with pre-settled or no status and non-EU nationals with no recourse to public funds who plan to leave an abusive partner and realise that they will not be entitled to any social security support.<sup>1</sup>

**Comments:** Finance, procurement, audit, risk, legal - all need to be considered. Colleagues in Ukraine resettlement teams have considered idea of providing funding to Ukrainians to support movement into PRS - there have been a lot of issues re how to deliver this - can we learn from them?

You will need tax advice from HMRC on this - recurring payments can be classed as income. **redacted-38(1)(b)** is the key contact in SG for seeking such advice. **redacted-38(1)(b)** has been through the process for TGF

6. If we are considering that the fund supports migrant women then we should also consider that the fund supports gypsy/traveller women and support their needs for culturally appropriate homes

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/CPAG-Scot-EWS-domestic%20abuse-Oct18%20%282%29.pdf>

7. There is a considerations grid to help with discussion but who makes the decisions on these issues?

### Payment outcomes

8. CPAG's briefing also indicates:

As part of the primary goal, in our view the payment should also seek to ensure that:

- Women are given immediate relief from destitution and poverty when they leave their current home for a place of safety because of domestic abuse.
- Women are given more time to access integrated support to navigate the costs of a new life as ongoing needs are identified.
- Women have the option to leave more quickly with the confidence their initial needs will be met.
- As a result, women are less likely to return to an abusive partner.
- Women have equal access to the payment through multiple avenues that understand the needs of different groups.
- Women are not required to navigate new risk and bureaucracy and the payment is received quickly following an application.
- The payment should recognise that financial control does not always end on separation.

### Figures

9. redacted-38(1)(b) has provided the following information on cost

- Universal Credit (UC) standard allowance is £334/month if you're over 25, plus payments for each child - only 2 - of £290 or £244 depending on whether first/second child and when they were born. The recommendation we worked toward from the Improving Housing Outcomes for Women and Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse working group is for a payment to cover the 5 week wait for UC, so any payment would need to match that for women who have no other source of income and then additional costs for leaving. As you'll be aware UC applicants can access an advance on UC until their payment is made in 5 weeks. For women experiencing domestic abuse who may already have substantial debt created by their perpetrator, this adds to their indebtedness and impoverishment as this payment is 'recovered' from their UC entitlement.
- For reference, the Future Generations Commissioner's office in Wales introduced a DA leaving grant + loan scheme for its employees: grant of up to £500, loan of up to £5,000. This is in addition to an entitlement to 10 days' paid leave to enable a

survivor to leave the abuse without losing their job. Although this is an employer scheme, rather than a national government scheme, it might still be useful just for comparison of rates.

**Comment:** Does this take account of other payments the woman and her child/ren may receive? I am thinking of things like PIP and other disability related benefits.

### UKG fund to leave

10. The UKG have confirmed they are looking at trialling a flexible fund of £300k. This is a commitment in the UKG [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#) published in March 2022, which states:

*Ensuring victims and survivors have the funds to move forward with their lives is crucial. That is why the Home Office will run a further trial of the flexible funding model, supported by up to £300,000 of funding over three years. The funds will be made available to charities in selected local authorities, and they will have wide-ranging discretion on what these funds can be used to acquire, based on their first-hand understanding of individual's needs. In turn, this will help improve our knowledge on what victims and survivors need.*

11. In March 2023 the UKG announced a trial of an innovative new approach to supporting victims. The Home Office is working closely with Women's Aid to provide £300,000 for one-off payments of £250 to victims of domestic abuse, rising to £500 where a victim has children.

12. The money is being allocated to Women's Aid, given their national reach, expertise and existing infrastructure to provide this urgent financial support to victims of domestic abuse who need it most. It will help victims to pay for essentials such as groceries, nappies, sanitary products and rent on their previous property whilst they are in a refuge, or it could be put towards a deposit on new accommodation when they leave a refuge.

### Financial Services Industry Support



13. TSB have asked if the SG will also announce a similar fund to the UKG fund. TSB have their own Emergency Flee Fund for customers. The TSB Flee Fund provides customers with £50-£500 to help victims-survivors to escape their abuser – covering the costs of essentials such as toiletries, food, travel and accommodation.

14. In April, TSB confirmed:

Since launch in December 2022, TSB has helped 40 people(12 in Scotland) with funds – and this is some of the data we have captured about how these are being used:

- 40 people helped (37 women and 3 men)
- 27% were fleeing with one or more children
- 43% accessed the full £500 and the average support for customers was £384
  - o 29% of the funds were used for food
  - o 18% towards clothes
  - o 17% towards accommodation
  - o 15% towards travel
  - o 12% towards utilities
  - o 6% towards other expenses such as toiletries, medication, post redirection etc.
- The average age of the customer receiving support is 32 (lowest is 22 and highest is 54)
- 15 people were supported to open a safe bank account and 10 people have had their address changed to ensure it is safe. 1 person has been removed from a joint account.

15. redacted-38(1)(b) from the Financial Services – Relationships, Regulation and International team, from where the TSB info came, is in conversation with [Scottish Financial Enterprise \(SFE\)](#) to explore a bank specific event on financial harm/vulnerable customers that would include an opportunity for TSB to share learnings and encourage others to consider replicating in some way.

Considerations		
<b>Budget</b>	Joint funding from relevant policy areas. Homelessness, VAWG. Anyone else?	Budget constraints across SG and LAs

<b>Cost</b>	Should it be the same payment to everyone i.e £1000	Will this fund effect the recipients benefits or tax?
<b>Fund Criteria</b>	Do we want to set a strict criteria?	Would this be another barrier to leaving? Is this fund only for women applying for UC?
<b>Delivery method</b>	<p>LA delivery similar to <a href="#">TGF</a> or DHPs or <a href="#">SWF</a>? Third sector delivery i.e local WA groups.</p> <p>Child poverty are also considering an Parental Transition Fund and we have had discussions with them about issues relating to delivery methods</p> <p>Can this be done through DES after Equally Safe review with additional homelessness budget for this specific purpose?</p>	This relies on using discretion so will need guidance?
<b>Pilot</b>	Where do we focus the pilot	Comment: Need to carefully consider pilot resources and ability to undertake all of the work involved in establishing, running and evaluating - how long would be meaningful? Will stakeholders say this creates a postcode lottery?
<b>Data</b>	How do we collect relevant and useful data	<p>If LA delivered data can be easily collected as per TGF</p> <p>Comment: I wonder if ICO will have an interest in this - depends</p>

		possibly on use of personal data including processing and who administers the fund
<b>Outcomes</b>	What outcomes do we want to see and how will this be monitored	
<b>Stakeholder views</b>	Does our proposed approach to a fund need to be tested with stakeholders	
<b>Lived experience input</b>	How do we best get involvement of the voice of lived experience?	
<b>Raising awareness</b>	How do we promote the fund?	
<b>Unintended Consequences</b>		Comment: I think this will need to be considered once an approach is sketched out. There is potential for some depending on way forward agreed
<b>Other issues</b>	What if the victim goes back to the perpetrator after they have received and spent their fund allocation?	

Erdm links to relevant emails and papers

[Victims fleeing domestic abuse given lifeline payments - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement - pilot scheme with Women's Aid \(A43238050\)](#)

[DA imp group - Fund to leave - info on UKG fund to leave - 22 February 2023 \(A43095337\)](#)

[DA Imp Group - Fund to Leave - info from SWA - 22 February 2023 \(A43095325\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

[DA imp group - Fund to leave - poss UKG announcement - 2 February 2023 \(A43095355\)](#)

[FMQ - SWA - cost of leaving - 19 December 2022 \(A41606451\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

[DA Imp Group - gendered impact of cost of living crisis - updated paper - 1 September 2022 \(A40467873\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

[DA imp group - financial support - case studies from CPAG - 16 June 2022 \(A38986344\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

[DA Imp Group - Financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse meeting - briefing from CPAG - 20 April 2022 \(A38231206\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

[DA Imp Group - financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse - email from Jo Ozga about proposal - 28 February 2022 \(A36827741\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

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Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement - pilot scheme with Women's Aid

**From:** redacted–38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 04 April 2023 15:43  
**To:** redacted–38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement  
Hello all

Sharing latest update from TSB which contains some data they have captured since they launched their flee fund in December last year.

Feel free to share with any colleagues who may find this useful. Also note that they intend to reference this in their intro letters to some ministers although it's not quite clear from redacted–38(1)(b) email how explicitly they will make a call for a Scottish flee fund.

I am still in conversation with SFE to explore a bank specific event on financial harm/vulnerable customers that would include an opportunity for TSB to share learnings and encourage others to consider replicating in some way.

In the meantime let me know if there is appetite for a conversation about further policy work we can collaborate or support on.

Kind regards

redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b) Financial Services – Relationships, Regulation and International  
Investment Finance, Directorate of International Trade and Investment  
redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 04 April 2023 15:13

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

redacted-38(1)(b)

Good afternoon and hope you are well.

You may well have seen the announcement from the Home office last week that it is to create a new pilot scheme with Women's Aid to provide victims of domestic abuse with emergency funds to escape their abuser.

We are taking this opportunity to write and share TSB's learnings from launching its own Emergency Flee Fund for customers at the end of last year – which we hope helps prove the case for why this initiative is so important.

The TSB Flee Fund, which as you know we launched following calls for national support from Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, provides customers with £50-£500 to help victims-survivors to escape their abuser – covering the costs of essentials such as toiletries, food, travel and accommodation.

Since launch in December 2022, I can now update that TSB has helped 40 people(12 in Scotland) with funds – and this is some of the data we have captured about how these are being used:

- **40 people helped (37 women and 3 men)**

- **27% were fleeing with one or more children**
- **43% accessed the full £500 and the average support for customers was £384**
  - **29% of the funds were used for food**
  - **18% towards clothes**
  - **17% towards accommodation**
  - **15% towards travel**
  - **12% towards utilities**
  - **6% towards other expenses such as toiletries, medication, post redirection etc.**
- **The average age of the customer receiving support is 32 (lowest is 22 and highest is 54)**
- **15 people were supported to open a safe bank account and 10 people have had their address changed to ensure it is safe. 1 person has been removed from a joint account.**

Seeing first-hand the difference these funds are making shows how important it will be for a similar scheme to be introduced in Scotland if we're to help save more lives from this despicable crime. We'll therefore continue to engage the Scottish Government to make the case for a national flee fund in Scotland.

We will be including in some of our Ministerial intro letters and wanted to give you the heads up.

Thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)

✉ Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH



**From:** > redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 21 March 2023 16:51  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

Apologies for the delay responding. Thank you for flagging and I can confirm that we have SG colleagues liaising directly with the Home Office on this. In relation to a similar SG fund this is something that would require further development either by or in collaboration with other SG colleagues and I am committed to maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the relevant internal parties on how we could take this forward.

In the meantime I have asked SFE to speak to their banking group about including this topic, and maybe other financial harm related issues, for discussion at one of their meetings as an opportunity to share best practice and identify further opportunities for the sector to engage directly with relevant SG policy areas to gather insight and further collaboration. redacted-38(1)(b) said he will ask the group to consider this at the next meeting in April and we will take it from there.

Happy to discuss further.

Kind regards

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

Financial Services – Relationships, Regulation and International

Investment Finance, Directorate of International Trade and Investment

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 07 February 2023 09:30

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

Thanks redacted-38(1)(b)

Latest appears to be Home Office have engaged Women's Aid and propose the creation of a £300,000 "Domestic Abuse Homicide Prevention Fund". Women's Aid pushed back on the costs and Home Office and HMT engaged the DA Commissioner on costs for the scheme which she has proposed budget of £1M for England and Wales.

Have you any thought on likelihood of a similar SG scheme.

Thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) | TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)

✉ *Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH*





**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 11:01

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

Thank you for sharing redacted-38(1)(b). I have shared with colleagues and we will pick up with Spads as required. I'm speaking to redacted-38(1)(b) next week and will include this as a topic for discussion and have agreed that SG colleagues will meet to discuss next steps after this. I will keep you posted.

Regards

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) Financial Services – Relationships, Regulation and International

Investment Finance, Directorate of International Trade and Investment

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 01 February 2023 09:20

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** FW: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

redacted-38(1)(b)

We've had heads up UKG could be moving on a national fund to help victims escape domestic abuse. Home Office working with Women's Aid on the plans and the DA Abuse Commissioner has produced costings.

Give the political nature of this I reached out to Spads but wanted to share the trail with you for information too. Grateful if you can share with the officials we met last week.

Best

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) | TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)

✉ *Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH*



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 01 February 2023 09:01

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

redacted-38(1)(b)

Good morning and hope you are well.

I saw the PQ below from Monica Lennon last week and wanted to reach out as we've just become aware the UK Government is giving serious consideration to announcing a national "flee fund" scheme for England and Wales (E&W) as part of the UK budget next month.

You may be aware from email last month that TSB announced its own flee fund at the end of last year as part of a broader package of support for victim survivors. Details of this are set out again below for ease of reference.

- **New Emergency Flee Fund** - we are offering existing customers who are impacted by domestic abuse an 'Emergency Flee Fund' payment of up to £500 to help escape an abusive relationship. The fund, which will provide between £50 - £500 based on the individual's needs will assist victims with the cost of essentials such as travel, clothing and toiletries.
- **Digital Safe Spaces** - TSB also becomes the first bank to join the Online Safe Spaces initiative to offer help to victims from the TSB website. Launched by the domestic abuse charity Hestia, Online Safe Spaces provides a discreet online portal on company websites for victims to get advice and helpful contact numbers. Importantly, it leaves no internet history trace, and provides quick exit options. Hestia has seen the number of people accessing support and advice via Online Safe Spaces skyrocket over the past few months, with a 158 percent increase.
- **Access to Cash Pilot** - in partnership with Women's Aid, TSB is also launching a pilot scheme to allow domestic abuse victims to safely open and access a bank account – without full documentation. The pilot will initially run in TSB's Norwich, Swindon, Wolverhampton and Walsall branches. In Scotland, the Alloa, Dundee and Galashiels branches will pilot the scheme.

Officials have costed the England & Wales scheme £1m. I know the numbers are slightly more complex than this but if £1m was the overall UK cost could a Scotland scheme be delivered for £100k?

We have been in touch with Scottish Government officials too and had a really positive discussions last week with **redacted-38(1)(b)** in the FS team and DA leads in justice and equalities. One of the options we discussed in that session was a roundtable with DA stakeholders and the possibility of Ministers writing to other banks through Scottish Financial Enterprise asking to come together fund a Scottish scheme. Since that discussion we've been working closely with stakeholders on big push with UKG on this and the indications are something may be forthcoming. Given the potential movement on this at a UK level I thought it might be something the Scottish Government would wish to get in front of by moving first.

Appreciate the Scottish Government is in the middle of its own budget process and the public finances are stretched but given the relatively low levels of spending involved on something that will save lives it was worth sharing to see what you both think.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

**redacted-38(1)(b)**

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to provide any additional financial support to people in abusive relationships during the cost of living crisis, in order to enable them to leave their abusive partners in situations where they are financially reliant on them, and what its position is on the reported suggestion by Women's Aid to introduce an emergency support fund for this purpose. S6W-14044 Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison: We are very concerned about the additional hardship women and children experiencing domestic abuse are facing as a result of the Cost of Living Crisis. We recognise this can impact their ability to leave their abuser and we are exploring options around the delivery of financial support in order that this is not a barrier to leaving an abusive partner. We are working with Scottish Women's Aid (SWA) and other organisations to consider how this support can be best developed and delivered. No-one should have to endure domestic abuse and help and support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline on 0800 0271234.

redacted-38(1)(b) | TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)

✉ *Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH*



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[DA imp group - Fund to leave - info on UKG fund to leave - 22 February 2023](#)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 22 February 2023 11:22  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b) MacKean C (Catriona)  
**Subject:** RE: Home Office - leave fund - etc  
**Attachments:** FW: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

Categories: for objective filing

Hi all,

For info, redacted-38(1)(b) and I met with redacted-38(1)(b) from the Home Office (Strategy & Implementation Hub, Interpersonal Abuse Unit, Public Safety Group) today about the fund to leave that was flagged by TSB in the attached email.

redacted-38(1)(b) confirmed that they are currently looking at trialling a flexible fund of £300k. This is a commitment in the UKG [Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#) published in March 2022, which states:

Ensuring victims and survivors have the funds to move forward with their lives is crucial. That is why the Home Office will run a further trial of the flexible funding model, supported by up to £300,000 of funding over three years. The funds will be made available to charities in selected local authorities, and they will have wide-ranging discretion on what these funds can be used to acquire, based on their first-hand understanding of individual's needs. In turn, this will help improve our knowledge on what victims and survivors need.

They are still considering the practicalities of the fund including the operational delivery and what it looks like in practice. There was a tranche of [announcements](#) made by the UKG on Monday in relation to their Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan and its likely that any announcement on this trial of flexible funding will be made in the next tranche of announcements in the next few months.

redacted-38(1)(b) and I will keep in touch with the UKG (redacted-38(1)(b) is moving posts) as well as keeping an eye out for any announcements.

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team

The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 14:02

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: Home Office - leave fund - etc

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

Thanks for agreeing to do this...

Totally agree this will be broader than homelessness policy – feel like one of the things we will need to do is identify where it would sit/who would lead. , redacted-38(1)(b) not sure if you have any thoughts on this?

Cheers

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

Equality Unit | Directorate For Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights |

redacted-38(1)(b)

Area 3H (North) | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 13:17

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: Home Office - leave fund - etc

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

I am happy to contact the HO to arrange a meeting but I have concerns about how much wider than homelessness policy this is so may not be able to lead on this long term.

Many thanks

) redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team

The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 11:29

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** Home Office - leave fund - etc

Hi folks

Taking others out of chain just now as thought it would be good to agree a way forward amongst us...

A quick question – who would be best placed to reach out to the Home Office to lead liaison?

redacted–38(1)(b) – would this sit well with your team? I am happy to be part of a meeting if it felt useful. It would be great if possible for redacted–38(1)(b) to continue involved as she has been really passionate in picking this up and making connections...

Cheers

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b)

Equality Unit | Directorate For Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights |

redacted–38(1)(b)

Area 3H (North) | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

redacted–38(1)(b)

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[DA imp group - Fund to leave - poss UKG announcement - 2 February 2023](#)

**From:** redacted–38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 07 February 2023 12:26  
**To:** redacted–38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement



Hello all – a further update from redacted–38(1)(b) at TSB.

It would be useful to know if anyone is tracking this activity in E&W separately for SG (rather than relying on TSB to keep us updated) – also my quick google search didn't find anything specific on this latest development.

I have my catch up with SFE tomorrow – should I put some time in the diary to catch up next week and discuss next steps?

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b) Financial Services – Relationships, Regulation and International

Investment Finance, Directorate of International Trade and Investment

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted–38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 07 February 2023 09:30

**To:** redacted–38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

Thanks redacted–38(1)(b)

Latest appears to be Home Office have engaged Women's Aid and propose the creation of a £300,000 "Domestic Abuse Homicide Prevention Fund". Women's Aid pushed back on the costs and Home Office and HMT engaged the DA Commissioner on costs for the scheme which she has proposed budget of £1M for England and Wales.

Have you any thought on likelihood of a similar SG scheme.

Thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) | TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)

✉ *Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH*



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 02 February 2023 11:01

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** [External] RE: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

Thank you for sharing redacted-38(1)(b). I have shared with colleagues and we will pick up with Spads as required. I'm speaking to redacted-38(1)(b) next week and will include this as a topic for discussion and have agreed that SG colleagues will meet to discuss next steps after this. I will keep you posted.

Regards

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) Financial Services – Relationships, Regulation and International

Investment Finance, Directorate of International Trade and Investment

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 01 February 2023 09:20

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** FW: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

redacted-38(1)(b)

We've had heads up UKG could be moving on a national fund to help victims escape domestic abuse. Home Office working with Women's Aid on the plans and the DA Abuse Commissioner has produced costings.

Give the political nature of this I reached out to Spads but wanted to share the trail with you for information too. Grateful if you can share with the officials we met last week.

Best

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) | TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)

✉ *Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH*



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 01 February 2023 09:01

To: -38(1)(b)

Subject: Domestic Abuse - possible UKG announcement

redacted-38(1)(b)

Good morning and hope you are well.

I saw the PQ below from Monica Lennon last week and wanted to reach out as we've just become aware the UK Government is giving serious consideration to announcing a national "flee fund" scheme for England and Wales (E&W) as part of the UK budget next month.

You may be aware from email last month that TSB announced its own flee fund at the end of last year as part of a broader package of support for victim survivors. Details of this are set out again below for ease of reference.

- **New Emergency Flee Fund** - we are offering existing customers who are impacted by domestic abuse an 'Emergency Flee Fund' payment of up to £500 to help escape an abusive relationship. The fund, which will provide between £50 - £500 based on the individual's needs will assist victims with the cost of essentials such as travel, clothing and toiletries.
- **Digital Safe Spaces** - TSB also becomes the first bank to join the Online Safe Spaces initiative to offer help to victims from the TSB website. Launched by the domestic abuse charity Hestia, Online Safe Spaces provides a discreet online portal on company websites for victims to get advice and helpful contact numbers. Importantly, it leaves no internet history trace, and provides quick exit options. Hestia has seen the number of people accessing support and advice via Online Safe Spaces skyrocket over the past few months, with a 158 percent increase.
- **Access to Cash Pilot** - in partnership with Women's Aid, TSB is also launching a pilot scheme to allow domestic abuse victims to safely open and access a bank account – without full documentation. The pilot will initially run in TSB's Norwich, Swindon, Wolverhampton and Walsall branches. In Scotland, the Alloa, Dundee and Galashiels branches will pilot the scheme.

Officials have costed the England & Wales scheme £1m. I know the numbers are slightly more complex than this but if £1m was the overall UK cost could a Scotland scheme be delivered for £100k?

We have been in touch with Scottish Government officials too and had a really positive discussions last week with redacted-38(1)(b) in the FS team and DA leads in justice and equalities. One of the options we discussed in that session was a roundtable with DA stakeholders and the possibility of Ministers writing to other banks through Scottish Financial Enterprise asking to come together fund a Scottish scheme. Since that discussion we've been working

closely with stakeholders on big push with UKG on this and the indications are something may be forthcoming. Given the potential movement on this at a UK level I thought it might be something the Scottish Government would wish to get in front of by moving first.

Appreciate the Scottish Government is in the middle of its own budget process and the public finances are stretched but given the relatively low levels of spending involved on something that will save lives it was worth sharing to see what you both think.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to provide any additional financial support to people in abusive relationships during the cost of living crisis, in order to enable them to leave their abusive partners in situations where they are financially reliant on them, and what its position is on the reported suggestion by Women's Aid to introduce an emergency support fund for this purpose. S6W-14044 Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison: We are very concerned about the additional hardship women and children experiencing domestic abuse are facing as a result of the Cost of Living Crisis. We recognise this can impact their ability to leave their abuser and we are exploring options around the delivery of financial support in order that this is not a barrier to leaving an abusive partner. We are working with Scottish Women's Aid (SWA) and other organisations to consider how this support can be best developed and delivered. No-one should have to endure domestic abuse and help and support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline on 0800 0271234.

redacted-38(1)(b) | TSB

redacted-38(1)(b)



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## 2 - 5 September 2023 - Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes – Private Rented Sector Team

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 05 September 2023 13:53  
**To:** -38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** SWA - fund to leave - FOI

Hello,

You have both previously messaged me about SWA mentioning to you in a meeting about a fund to leave that I am leading on. I am dealing with 3 FOIs that relate to meetings that I have had with SWA, **out of scope** and **out of scope** where we discussed the fund to leave, text from the SWA one posted below but all 3 FOIs are the same apart from a name change at the highlighted part. I would be very grateful if you could please confirm the details of any meetings with SWA (and the others) where the fund to leave was discussed. Please could I have the dates of any meetings and confirmation if there are any meetings notes that need to be included in the FOI. I appreciate that you both may have a nil return.

**FOI case reference number:** 202300372279

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with **Scottish Women's Aid** on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment

of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund.

Here is a link to the info I am gathering for your info: [FOI - meetings dates and papers - SWA, COSLA, CPAG \(A45086490\)](#)

Happy to discuss further if needed.

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

*FOI - meetings dates and papers - SWA*

### **Fund to Leave - Meeting Dates and Papers**

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with **Scottish Women's Aid**/out of scope / out of scope on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund

Colour code for exemptions applied:

redacted-29(1)(b)	<a href="#">Section 29(1)(b) (ministerial communications)</a>
redacted-30(b)(i)	<a href="#">Section 30(b)(i) (free and frank provision of advice)</a>

redacted-30(b)(ii)	<a href="#">Section 30(b)(ii) (free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation)</a>
redacted-36(1)	<a href="#">Section 36(1) (claim to confidentiality of communications/legal advice)</a>
redacted-38(1)(b)	<a href="#">Section 38(1)(b) (personal information)</a>
out of scope	Information is not in scope of original request

<b>SWA</b>				
<b>Meetings and meeting notes</b>	<b>Original Version</b>	<b>Redacted version</b>	<b>Redacted PDF version</b>	<b>Disclose?</b>
30/03/2021	No meeting note, email follow up as per SWA email of 31 March 2021			
4 March 2022 - <a href="#">BSG - Stakeholders - Meeting with Scottish Women's Aid regarding possibility of higher Pregnancy and Baby Payment for those with children forced to leave due to domestic abuse - Draft March 22 (A36836359)</a>	<b>Exempt-25(1)</b> – provided in original FOI			
21 April 2022 with CPAG and Engender	Action note only <b>Exempt-25(1)</b> – provided in original FOI			
18 August 2022 with CPAG and Engender – <a href="#">DA Imp Group - financial support follow up - 18 August 2022 (A40308714)</a>	<b>Exempt-25(1)</b> – provided in original FOI			
22 February 2023 - <a href="#">SG, SWA, CIH catch up 22 February 2023. (A42656585)</a>	<b>Exempt-25(1)</b> – provided in original FOI			
19/006/2023 <a href="#">Stakeholder engagement - Scottish Women's Aid - 19 June 2023 (A44911641)</a>	<b>Exempt-25(1)</b> – provided in original FOI			



21/06/2023 - <a href="#">DA Imp Group minutes - 21 June 2023 (A44193267)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
04/07/2023	No meeting note		
18/07/2023 (at SWA offices)	No meeting note		
09/08/2023 Ministers meeting with SWA - <a href="#">Mr McLennan Introductory meeting with Scottish Women's Aid - 11/08/23 (A44854532)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<b>Papers</b>			
<a href="#">Roundtable domestic abuse and social security - email from Jo Ozga - 31 March 2021 (A32932622)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<a href="#">DA Imp Group - financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse - email from Jo Ozga about proposal - 28 February 2022 (A36827741)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<a href="#">Five Family Payments Meeting with Engender and SWA - 17 August 2022 - note of meeting (A40353454)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<a href="#">DA Imp Group - cost of living crisis paper from Jo Ozga - 26 August 2022 (A40412280)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<a href="#">DA Imp Group - gendered impact of cost of living crisis - updated paper - 1 September 2022 (A40467873)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<a href="#">DA Imp Group - Fund to Leave - info from SWA - 22 February 2023 (A43095325)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		

<a href="#">Fund to leave - development paper - version 1 sent to SWA - 5 July 2023 (A45136470)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">Fund to Leave - Development paper with SWA input - 10 July 2023 (A44428719)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">Fund to leave - development paper - version 2 - July 2023 - paper sent to SWA, Engender and CPAG - 13 July 2023 (A44490674)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">Minister for Housing - Briefing - Scottish Women's Aid - 9 August - Mr McLennan (A44724023)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

out of scope

out of scope

<b>General Papers</b>			
<a href="#">Homelessness: Financial support to leave an abusive partner fund: 2023-2028 (qA1616765) (electronic folder)</a>			
<a href="#">Homelessness: Prevention Pathways: 2020 - Domestic Abuse: 2020-2021 (qA1057987) (electronic folder)</a>			
<a href="#">Homelessness: Prevention Pathways: Domestic Abuse: 2023-2024 alias (zA2185362) (electronic folder)</a>			
	Original Version	Redacted Version	Redacted PDF Version
out of scope			
<a href="#">DA Imp Group - financial support follow up - 18 August 2022 (A40308714)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		
<a href="#">FMQ - SWA - cost of leaving - 19 December 2022 (A41606451)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI		

<a href="#">Fund for leaving and human rights-based accommodation pathways contribution for Ms McKelvie (A41985443)</a> ?	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">DA imp group - Fund to leave - poss UKG announcement - 2 February 2023 (A43095355)</a>	<a href="#">This information is released at document 1</a>
<a href="#">DA imp group - Fund to leave - info on UKG fund to leave - 22 February 2023 (A43095337)</a>	<a href="#">This information is released at document 1</a>
<a href="#">Fund to leave overview - March 2023 (A43104161)</a>	<a href="#">This information is released at document 1</a>
<a href="#">Fund to leave - Discussion paper - June 2023 (A44254951)</a>	<a href="#">This information is released at document 1</a>
<a href="#">Submission - funding for financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse 'fund to leave' - June 2023 (A43990293)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">Fund to leave - development paper - version 2 - July 2023 - paper sent to SWA, Engender and CPAG - 13 July 2023 (A44490674)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">CORE BRIEF - Fund to leave - August 2023 (A44826652)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI
<a href="#">Fund to leave - development paper - version 2 - updated August 2023 (A44478445)</a>	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

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**3 - 5 September 2023 - Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes with nil return - Social Housing Team**

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 05 September 2023 14:09  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIs - fund to leave

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

Its nil from us

Best wishes

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b):Better Homes Division  
redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:01 PM  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** FOIs - fund to leave

Hi. redacted-38(1)(b)

As you may know, I am dealing with 3 FOIs that relate to meetings that we have had with SWA, **out of scope** and **out of scope** where we discussed the fund to leave, text from the SWA one posted below but all 3 FOIs are the same apart from a name change at the highlighted part. I would be very grateful if you could please confirm the details of any meetings that you may have had with SWA, **out of scope** and **out of scope** where the fund to leave was discussed. Please could I have the dates of any meetings and confirmation if there are any meetings notes that need to be included in the FOI. You don't need to include any meetings where I was there but looking to see if you might have met with any of them separately and the fund to leave came up? I appreciate that you may have a nil return.

**FOI case reference number:** 202300372279

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with **Scottish Women's Aid** on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund.

Here is a link to the info I am gathering for your info: [FOI - meetings dates and papers - SWA, COSLA, CPAG \(A45086490\)](#) (this information is released at [section 2](#))

Happy to discuss further if needed.

Many thanks

**redacted-38(1)(b)**

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

**redacted-38(1)(b)**

**redacted-38(1)(b)**

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**4 - 5 September 2023 - Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes with nil return – Equality Unit**

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 05 September 2023 17:12  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIs - fund to leave - FOI

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

I have not been involved in any meetings nor correspondence with SWA on this topic. So a nice nil return.

All the best

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

Equality Unit | Directorate For Equality, Inclusion & Human Rights |

redacted-38(1)(b)

Area 3H (North) | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

redacted-38(1)(b)



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 05 September 2023 13:56

To: redacted-38(1)(b)

Subject: FOIs - fund to leave - FOI

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

As you may know, I am dealing with 3 FOIs that relate to meetings that I have had with SWA, out of scope and out of scope where we discussed the fund to leave, text from the SWA one posted below but all 3 FOIs are the same apart from a name change at the highlighted part. I would be very grateful if you could please confirm the details of any meetings that you may have had with SWA, out of scope and out of scope where the fund to leave was discussed. Please could I have the dates of any meetings and confirmation if there are any meetings notes that need to be included in the FOI. I appreciate that you may have a nil return.

**FOI case reference number:** 202300372279

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with **Scottish Women's Aid** on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund.

Here is a link to the info I am gathering for your info: [FOI - meetings dates and papers - SWA, COSLA, CPAG \(A45086490\)](#) (this information is released at [section 2](#))

Happy to discuss further if needed.

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b)

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## 5 - 6 September 2023 - Official to Official email about relevant meeting notes with links – Social Security

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 06 September 2023 09:58  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIs - fund to leave

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

I've checked eRDM and only instance of meeting where fund to leave was discussed was in March 2022 with SWA - [BSG - Stakeholders - Meeting with Scottish Women's Aid regarding possibility of higher Pregnancy and Baby Payment for those with children forced to leave due to domestic abuse - Draft March 22 details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#) Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI

This is an internal note not a formal minute so was not shared with stakeholder for approval. We have not discussed fund to leave with **out of scope** or **out of scope** as far as I can see. We did not brief Ministers on the fund to leave elements of our discussions nor did we discuss them further with policy colleagues.

The only other mention of leaving fund was an email chain with you which predacted our engagement with SWA - [SCP/BSG - 2022 regs - Higher PBP Payment - Domestic Abuse - Info from homelessness on support available - 10 February 2022 details - Objective ECM \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#) – this was not directly related to our meeting with SWA but rather our policy exploration of providing higher payment in cases of domestic abuse which then lead to us engaging with SWA

redacted-38(1)(b) – I checked both Best Start Grant folder and Five Family Payments folder.



redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods  
Social Security Policy  
**Social Security Directorate**

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**The Scottish Government**



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 3:19 PM

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** FOIs - fund to leave

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

I am dealing with 3 FOIs that relate to meetings that I have had with SWA, out of scope and out of scope where we discussed the 'fund to leave', text from the SWA one posted below but all 3 FOIs are the same apart from a name change at the highlighted part. I would be very grateful if you could please confirm the details of any meetings that you may have had with SWA, out of scope and out of scope where the 'fund to leave' was discussed. Please could I have the dates of any meetings and confirmation if there are any meetings notes that need to be included in the FOI. We have met previously and discussed this but I am not sure if you have ever discussed the 'fund to leave' with those listed so I appreciate that you may have a nil return.

**FOI case reference number:** 202300372279

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with **Scottish Women's Aid** on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund.

Here is a link to the info I am gathering for your info: [FOI - meetings dates and papers - SWA, COSLA, CPAG \(A45086490\)](#) (this information is released at [section 2](#))

Happy to discuss further if needed.

Many thanks

**redacted-38(1)(b)**

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

**redacted-38(1)(b)**  
**redacted-38(1)(b)**

**From:** **redacted-38(1)(b)**  
**Sent:** 10 February 2022 07:18  
**To:** **redacted-38(1)(b)**  
**Cc:** **redacted-38(1)(b)**  
**Subject:** RE: Query re individuals fleeing domestic abuse with children - Best Start Grant  
**Attachments:** PQ - S6W-05218 - 10 January 2021.docx

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

There is a recommendation in the homelessness report about a 'leaving fund' – see exact text below. This is something that we will be exploring as part of our work, We are working closely with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) team in the equality unit, particularly the leads on the Strategic Review of Equally Safe funding and also looking at any links to the Scottish Welfare Fund. However this work is at a very early stage and we are working to a 2 year timescale on implementing all of the 27 recommendations in the report.

*Financial support for women experiencing domestic abuse - The Scottish Government should explore options for a dedicated support fund, or entitlements with clear guidance and capable of delivering short-term recurring payments, to support women leaving an abusive partner. This should include essential crisis costs to enable a woman to leave and to bridge the gap between leaving and the first Universal Credit payment.*

We had a written PQ on this in January and have attached a copy of that so you can see our lines and background for more info.

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 09 February 2022 16:24

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: Query re individuals fleeing domestic abuse with children - Best Start Grant

Thanks redacted-38(1)(b). That's really helpful and I will contact redacted-38(1)(b) team regarding the transfer of tenancy provisions. Do you (or anyone else on copy) know who might know more about any financial support or assistance that is available to those domestic abuse survivors who do flee the home?

Regards

redacted-38(1)(b)



redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b) Best Start Grant| Scottish Government

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 09 February 2022 16:06

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: Query re individuals fleeing domestic abuse with children - Best Start Grant

Hi redacted-38(1)(b)

Our Social Housing Policy team deal with the transfer of tenancy provisions within the Domestic Abuse Scotland Protection Act so suggest they might be your first call? That team is redacted-38(1)(b)

I do deal with preventing homelessness as a result of domestic abuse so happy to be involved in any conversation on our plans to implement a set of recommendations made by a working group to [improve housing outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic abuse](#) if you think you need it?

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)



**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** 09 February 2022 15:45

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** Query re individuals fleeing domestic abuse with children - Best Start Grant

Hi

I am looking for some assistance in relation to individuals who have fled domestic abuse – not sure which of your policy teams would be specifically responsible in this instance so apologies for the slightly scattergun approach.

I work in Social Security and we are currently in the process of drafting amendments to regulations for Best Start Grant. This benefit aims to support low income families who are in receipt of a qualifying benefit by providing payments at three key transition points in a child's early years. These payments are the Pregnancy and Baby Payment, the Early Learning Payment and the School Age Payment.

While both the Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment provide a fixed amount of £252.50, the Pregnancy and Baby Payment provides £606 for a first child and £303 for second and subsequent children.

One of our proposed amendments is intended to provide access to the higher Pregnancy and Baby Payment (£606) for 2 groups of people though it is not their first child: refugees with pre-flight children and parents/carers having their first biological child while already responsible for a child who came into their care after reaching 12 months old. This change was prompted by an Upper Tribunal decision in relation to Sure Start Maternity Grant which is the UKG equivalent of Best Start Grant. The policy rationale for this change is that both these groups are more likely to be starting from scratch without possessing the items that the Pregnancy and Baby Payment intends to help provide.

As part of our policy development, we are considering whether there are any other groups that should also be considered for access to the higher Pregnancy and Baby Payment. We would therefore like to gain a better understanding of the situation facing people who have fled domestic abuse and what support is currently available to them. SGLD have highlighted that the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill became an Act on 05 May 2021, and that this provides new protections to victims of domestic abuse, including certain rights to remain in their home and for their suspected abuser to be barred from entering the home. This would also seem relevant to our considerations.

Would you be able to advise which team(s) is/are best placed to have a discussion on this? I can also provide further information on Best Start Grant, if that would be helpful.

Kind Regards

redacted-38(1)(b)



redacted-38(1)(b)  
redacted-38(1)(b Best Start Grant| Scottish Government  
redacted-38(1)(b

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**6 - 15 September 2023, Official to Official email for clearance**

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 15 September 2023 09:09  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b) Catriona MacKean  
**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIs - Fund to leave - X3 - Draft

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Thanks redacted-38(1)(b). I think you can finalise them after that. If there is anything you are not sure of, give me a shout.

redacted-38(1)(b) Directorate for Local Government and Housing | Scottish Government | redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 15 September 2023 08:35  
**To:** redacted-38(1)(b) Catriona MacKean <[Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot](mailto:Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Subject:** RE: FOIs - Fund to leave - X3 - Draft

Thanks redacted-38(1)(b)

I have updated all the SWA ones and will do the out of scope and out of scope ones today. Unfortunately the table you refer to ie the development paper is ours so I will redact what I can from that doc but your comments are really helpful.

I have had a couple of teams messages asking if the FOIs are on track to be completed on time. Do they need to be seen again once I have made all the suggested changes or can I finalise them on Micase?

Many thanks

redacted-38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted-38(1)(b)

redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 3:29 PM

**To:** redacted-38(1)(b) Catriona MacKean <[Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot](mailto:Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot)>

**Cc:** redacted-38(1)(b)

**Subject:** RE: FOIs - Fund to leave - X3 - Draft

Hi, redacted-38(1)(b)

Thanks. Have started to look at this and have been through the material proposed for release in relation to meetings with SWA and left you some comments.

A few points:

- We can't take a blanket approach and apply an exemption to a whole core brief for example. We have to take a line by line approach.
- Section redacted-30(b)(i)



- I also think there are various sections that may be considered out of scope. They relate to support for women experiencing domestic abuse more generally and are not specifically about a fund to leave.
- There is a table with suggested amounts that appears multiple times in the document. Did we create it or did SWA create it? If it's ours then I would redact sections of it on proposed sums and delivery mechanisms.

redacted-38(1)(b) | Directorate for Local Government and Housing | Scottish Government | redacted-38(1)(b)

**From:** redacted-38(1)(b)  
**Sent:** 11 September 2023 16:17  
**To:** Catriona MacKean <[Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot](mailto:Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot) redacted-38(1)(b)>  
**Subject:** FOIs - Fund to leave - X3 - Draft

Hi Catriona,

redacted-38(1)(b) messaged me today to see when these would be ready for you. I am aware that you are off so not sure if redacted-38(1)(b) needs to see them instead? To see table below with the erdm links to all the relevant documents, again I don't know which ones you need to see/clear.

Section redacted-30(b)(i)

	SWA	out of scope	out of scope
Draft letter	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI	out of scope	out of scope
Documents for disclosure and to include with reply	Exempt-25(1) – provided in original FOI	out of scope	out of scope
Compliance template	<a href="#">FOI - Templates - Statement of Compliance -</a>	out of scope	out of scope

	<a href="#">202300372279 - SWA (A45034685)</a>		
Searches template	redacted–Section 30(b)(i)	out of scope	out of scope
Micase erdm folder	<a href="#">202300372279 (qA1622904) (electronic folder)</a>	out of scope	out of scope
Master document for info only	<a href="#">FOI - meetings dates and papers - SWA, COSLA, CPAG (A45086490)</a> (this information is released at <a href="#">section 2</a> )		

Many thanks

) redacted–38(1)(b)

Homelessness Unit, Homelessness Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8LU

redacted–38(1)(b)

redacted–38(1)(b)

[FOI - Templates - Statement of Compliance - 202300372279 - SWA \(A45034685\)](#) .

### **Statement of Compliance – Initial Request**

FOI reference number: 202300372279

- Please provide a list of all meetings held with Scottish Women’s Aid on the topic of a leavers fund to support victims of domestic abuse to leave abusive relationships.
- Please provide all correspondence related to these meetings including the minutes of the meeting, any briefing notes provided to ministers related to these meetings, any notes or analysis produced before or after the meeting related to the establishment

of a leavers fund for victims of domestic abuse, and any proposed timeline that may have been produced regarding the establishment of a leavers fund.

**FOI Unit Triage: Assessed as**

**Searches:**

I have completed a robust search to identify all of the information held which would fall within the scope of the request. I have completed the [searches template](#) and saved in this document and all other documents pertaining to the FOI/EIR to eRDM.

**Schedule of Documents Exemptions/Exceptions applied and public interest considerations:**

<b>Doc. No.</b>	<b>Description of information</b>	<b>Decision (Release, partial release, withhold)</b>	<b>Information withheld.</b>	<b>Exemption(s) /Exception(s) applied</b>	<b>Why exemption/ exception applies</b>	<b>Public Interest test appropriate? Yes/No</b>	<b>P.I. test arguments for and against disclosure</b>	<b>Outcome of P.I. test.</b>
1	<a href="#">Email from SWA on the social security roundtable with slides and note of meeting – 31/03/21</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Person information	No		
2	<a href="#">Email from SWA – 28/02/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Personal information	No		
3	<a href="#">Meeting note from 04/03/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information	No		

4	<a href="#">Actions from meeting on 21/04/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Personal information	No		
5	<a href="#">Email with Meeting note of Five Family payments team meeting – 17/08/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information	No		
6	<a href="#">Actions from meeting on 18/08/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Personal information	No		
7	<a href="#">Email with cost of living paper – 26/08/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Personal information	No		
8	<a href="#">Updated cost of living crisis paper – 01/09/2022</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Personal information	No		
9	<a href="#">FMQ – domestic Abuse – Cost of Leaving – 18/12/2022</a>	withhold	all	30(b)(i)	Free and frank provision of advice			
10	<a href="#">Contribution for Ms McKelvie on fund to leave December 2022</a>	withhold	All	30(b)(i)	Free and frank provision of advice			

11	<a href="#">Meeting note from 22/02/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information			
12	<a href="#">Email from SWA with info for the leaving fund – 22/02/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b)	Personal information			
13	<a href="#">Meeting note from 19/06/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information			
14	<a href="#">Meeting note from 21/06/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information			
15	<a href="#">Submission to Ministers – financial support to leave and abusive partner – 29/06/2023</a>	Withhold	All	30(b)(i)	Free and frank provision of advice			
16	<a href="#">Email to SWA with development paper and other attachments – 05/07/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and 30(b)(ii) (development paper only?)	Personal information and free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation			

17	<a href="#">Email from SWA with comments on development paper – 10/07/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and 30(b)(ii) (development paper only?)	Personal information and free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation			
18	<a href="#">Email with development paper – 13/07/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and 30(b)(ii) (development paper only?)	Personal information and free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation			
19	<a href="#">Briefing for Ministerial meeting with SWA – 09/08/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information			
20	<a href="#">Meeting note from 09/08/2023</a>	Partial release	Personal information	38(1)(b) and out of scope	Personal information			
21	<a href="#">Core Brief</a>	withhold		30(b)(i)	Free and frank provision of advice			

22	Development Paper Version <u>2</u>	withhold		30(b)(ii)	free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation			
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**Case-handler record of Decisions**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultation:**

**Decision Level**

I can confirm that I have saved a copy of any comments/advice received to eRDM in .....

**Notes on case handling/summary of case:**