

1. **DOCUMENT 1 – Big Issue interview brief**

**BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER**

**BIG ISSUE INTERVIEW**

**25 SEPTEMBER 2024**

[Out of scope of request]

- **Committing a record £6bn for benefits expenditure this year, £1bn more than the UK Government gives to the Scottish Government for Social Security – this includes increasing Scottish Child Payment in line with inflation to £26.70 a week, giving support to the families of over 325,000 under 16s who currently receive it.**

[Out of scope of request]

**CALLS TO INCREASE SCP TO £40**

**Although faced with difficult choices in the Budget, we increased the Scottish Child Payment in line with inflation to £26.70 in April 2024.**

- **More than 325,000 under-16s were benefitting from the payment by the end of June 2024, with £786m issued between February 2021 and June 2024.**
- **Modelling suggests that the Scottish Child Payment will keep 60,000 children out of relative poverty in 2024-25.**
- **This payment is not available anywhere else in the UK – and it's available because we're prioritising action on child poverty, despite our constrained resources.**
- **Our five family payments could be worth over £10,000 by the time an eligible child turns six and around £25,000 by the time an eligible child turns 16. This compares to less than £2,000 for families in England and Wales, where support ends when an eligible child turns four.**

[Out of scope of request]

2. **DOCUMENT 2** – Brief for Portfolio Questions – 6/9/24

***Lines provided largely duplicates of lines found in DOCUMENT 1.***

**[Out of scope of request]**

- Committing a record £6bn for benefits expenditure this year, £1bn more than the UK Government gives to the Scottish Government for Social Security – this includes increasing Scottish Child Payment in line with inflation to £26.70 a week, giving support to the families of over 325,000 under 16s who currently receive it.

**[Out of scope of request]**

**CALLS TO INCREASE SCP TO £40**

**Although faced with difficult choices in the Budget, we increased the Scottish Child Payment in line with inflation to £26.70 in April 2024.**

- More than 325,000 under-16s were benefitting from the payment by the end of June 2024, with £786m issued between February 2021 and June 2024.
- Modelling suggests that the Scottish Child Payment will keep 60,000 children out of relative poverty in 2024-25.
- This payment is not available anywhere else in the UK – and it's available because we're prioritising lifting children out of poverty, despite our constrained resources.
- Our five family payments could be worth over £10,000 by the time an eligible child turns six and around £25,000 by the time an eligible child turns 16. This compares to less than £2,000 for families in England and Wales, where support ends when an eligible child turns four.

**[Out of scope of request]**

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**

### 3. DOCUMENT 3 – Ministerial Briefing – Challenge poverty week debate

<b>What</b>	Scottish Government Debate – Challenge Poverty Week
<b>When</b>	8 October 2024, 14:20-17:00 TBC Opening speech (12 mins) – First Minister Closing speech (9 mins) – Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

[Out of scope of request]

**Despite facing the most challenging financial situation since devolution, our Programme for Government is driving forward the national mission to eradicate child poverty. This includes:**

[Out of scope of request]

- Committing a record £6bn for benefits expenditure this year, £1bn more than the UK Government gives to the Scottish Government for Social Security – this includes increasing Scottish Child Payment in line with inflation to £26.70 a week, giving support to the families of over 325,000 under 16s who were in receipt as of the end of June.

[Out of scope of request]

**RISES IN POVERTY IN SINGLE YEAR CHILD POVERTY / INTERIM TARGETS**  
**There can be no acceptable number of children living in poverty – ending child poverty in Scotland is a national mission and our top priority.**

- The statistics show that, overall, child poverty rates are broadly stable – but this data (from 2022-23) does not fully reflect the impact of key policies – like the increase of the Scottish Child Payment from £20 to £25 and the expansion of eligibility to all under-16s.

[Out of scope of request]

- We expect child poverty rates to have fallen in 2023-24 as the impact of this and other key policies continue to take effect, but this data will not be available until it is published Spring 2025.

[Out of scope of request]

**Anti-poverty academics recognise the impact made by the expansion and increase of the Scottish Child Payment**

- Prof. Danny Dorling, Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography University of Oxford, said the impact of SCP was “*stunning*” and **[QUOTE]** “*has an effect on changing the inequality level in Scotland, which I don’t see in any country for which there has been data for the last 40 years*” [the National, 22 Sep 2023]
- Tom Wernham of the Institute for Fiscal Studies said **[QUOTE]**: “*The Scottish Child Payment will have significantly increased the incomes of people who are*

*well below the poverty line, so even if it does not bring them past the poverty line, alleviating the depth of poverty will still be an achievement of the payment”.*  
[SJSS Committee, 23 May]

- Morag Treanor of Glasgow University described the payment as a “a game-changer for Scotland” noting: **[QUOTE]** “Levels of child poverty in Scotland will drop faster [and] further than they will in the rest of the UK, particularly England, because of this payment.” [FT, 2 Oct 2023]

**[Out of scope of request]**

## **INCREASING SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT**

**The 2024-25 Scottish Budget was the most challenging on record, with a UK Government’s Autumn Statement that was the worst-case scenario for Scotland, delivering a real terms reduction in the total block grant.**

- Despite this, we have increased the payment in line with inflation to £26.70 from April 2024, and we are spending an estimated £614m on benefits and payments which are only available in Scotland, including the Scottish Child Payment.
- Increasing Scottish Child Payment to £40 per week would cost over £200m per year, money which would need to be found within our fixed budget.

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

**[Out of scope of request]**

4. **DOCUMENT 4** – Ministerial Briefing – JRF Poverty in Scotland Launch

<b>What</b>	Launch of Joseph Rowntree Foundation Poverty in Scotland Report
<b>When</b>	Monday 7 October, 10:30-12:00

[Out of scope of request]

**ANNEX G**

**INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL SECURITY**

[Out of scope of request]

**INCREASING SCOTTISH CHILD PAYMENT**

**The 2024-25 Scottish Budget was the most challenging on record, with a UK Government's Autumn Statement that was the worst-case scenario for Scotland, delivering a real terms reduction in the total block grant.**

- Despite this, we have increased the payment in line with inflation to £26.70 from April 2024.
- In 2024-25 we are spending an estimated £614m on benefits and payments which are only available in Scotland, including the Scottish Child Payment.
- Increasing Scottish Child Payment to £40 per week would cost over £200m per year, money which would need to be found within the Scottish Government's fixed budget.

5. **DOCUMENT 5** – Ministerial Engagement: Mr McKee – Pre-Budget Roundtable

[Out of scope of request]

<b>When</b>	10 October 2024
<b>Time</b>	13:30 – 15:00

[Out of scope of request]

**ANNEX C – COSTED LABOUR POLICIES (FROM BUDGET DEBATES)**

<b>BUDGET ASK</b>	<b>COST</b>
[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]	[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]

[Out of scope of request]

6. **DOCUMENT 6** – Legislation tracking template

SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE  
LEGISLATION TRACKING TEMPLATE

Name	<b>The Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (“the Regulations”)</b>  <b>The Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2025 (“the Order”)</b>
	<b>[Redacted under Section 30 (b)(i) - Free and frank provision of advice]</b>
Lead Policy contact	<b>[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]</b>
Drafting Solicitor	<b>[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]</b>
Lead Programme contact	<b>[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]</b>
Lead Agency contact	<b>[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]</b>
Coming into force date	April 2025

<b>Legislation Summary</b>
<p><u>Scope and Content</u>  The Regulations are a recurring instrument <b>[Redacted under Section 30 (b)(i) - Free and frank provision of advice]</b> to increase the amount of <b>[Out of scope of request]</b> Scottish Child Payment (SCP) and <b>[Out of scope of request]</b> to an amount which is at least as high as if the existing amount was adjusted in line with price inflation.</p> <p><b>[Out of scope of request]</b></p>

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

**[Out of scope of request]**

**7. DOCUMENT 7**

**[Exempted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**



8. **DOCUMENT 8** – Poverty Alliance briefing for Programme for Government

**[Exempted under section 25 - Information otherwise available]**

9. **DOCUMENT 9** – Email chain – report on poverty and health inequality

**[Out of scope of request]**

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 5:59 PM  
**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >  
**Subject:** RE: Media query - BBC - Report on poverty and health inequalities.

**[Out of scope of request]**

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**

**[Out of scope of request]**

Background:

**[Out of scope of request]**

These statistics largely reflect a period when the Scottish Child Payment was £20 per week and only available for children under 6. From 14 November 2022, the Scottish Child Payment was increased to £25 per week and applications opened to all eligible 6-15 year olds. The full impact of the payment is expected to be captured within data to be published in March 2025, covering the period 2023-24.

ENDS

**[Out of scope of request]**

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2024 3:39 PM  
**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >  
**Cc:** Julie Humphreys <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >; Mick Wilson <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >; [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot >  
**Subject:** Media query - BBC - Report on poverty and health inequalities.

**[Out of scope of request]**

Background:

**[Out of scope of request]**

These statistics largely reflect a period when the Scottish Child Payment was £20 per week and only available for children under 6. From 14 November 2022, the

Scottish Child Payment was increased to £25 per week and applications opened to all eligible 6-15 year olds. The full impact of the payment is expected to be captured within data to be published in March 2025, covering the period 2023-24.

**[Out of scope of request]**

ENDS

**[Out of scope of request]**

10. **DOCUMENT 10** – Email Chain – Child poverty key lines

**[Out of scope of request]**

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2024 11:28 AM  
**To:** Emilie-Louise Purdie <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]  
**Subject:** SPAD VIEW PLS: child poverty key lines

**[Out of scope of request]**

### **Calls to increase the Scottish Child Payment**

“Although faced with difficult choices in the Budget, we increased the Scottish Child Payment in line with inflation to £26.70 in April 2024. Modelling, published by the Scottish Government in February 2024, estimates that the Scottish Child Payment will keep 60,000 children out of relative poverty in 2024-25.

“This payment is not available anywhere else in the UK – and it’s available because we’re prioritising action on child poverty, despite our constrained resources and decades of Westminster austerity policies.

“Our five family payments are making a difference. These could be worth over £10,000 by the time an eligible child turns six and around £25,000 by the time an eligible child turns 16. This compares to less than £2,000 for families in England and Wales.”

**[Out of scope of request]**

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]** Senior media manager |  
**Social Justice**  
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House  
[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot  
[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]

11. **DOCUMENT 11** – Challenge Poverty briefing discussion

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:27 PM

**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** FW: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE: CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK, 8 OCTOBER 2024 - REQUEST FOR BRIEFING CONTRIBUTIONS

Hello [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information],

I have reviewed the Ministerial Briefing for the Parliamentary Debate for Challenge Poverty Week and I have not suggested any amendments to our section B1. I figured in addition to top lines it will remain as - increasing SCP to £40.

**[Links to Document 4]**

Happy to send on once you have reviewed.

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**

**[Out of scope of request]**

12. **DOCUMENT 12** – Discussion of parliamentary activities relating to Universal Credit and Low Income Benefits

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 5:05 PM  
**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>; [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@socialsecurity.gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Weekly parliamentary note - 6 September 2024

Hello all,

Here is this week's note:

### **Parliamentary Activity**

#### **Scottish Parliament**

**[Out of scope of request]**

5 September: Programme for Government (PfG) – Eradicating Child Poverty Debate

**[Out of scope of request]**

Maggie Chapman (Green) called for the Scottish Child Payment (SCP) to be increased to £40 per week. Paul O’Kane (Lab) questioned the modelling for the finding that SCP is keeping 100,000 children out of poverty. (see media report below)

**[Out of scope of request]**

Child poverty and Universal Credit inadequacies

**[Out of scope of request]**

- [Redacted under Section 25 - Information otherwise available] and others reported on a Poverty Alliance letter signed by 100 charities urging the First Minister to raise SCP to £40 a week.
- [Redacted under Section 25 - Information otherwise available] reported on particular criticisms from Save the Children Scotland, one of the signatories to the letter.

**[Out of scope of request]**

[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]  
Team Leader – Parliament and Legislation | Parliamentary Unit | Directorate for Social Security | The Scottish Government | [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]



13. **DOCUMENT 13** – Preparing for meeting with Aberlour Children’s Charity

**[Out of scope of request]**

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2024 3:05 PM

**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Aberlour Children's Charity - meeting with Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice - 18th September 2024 - 12 - 12.30pm online

**[Out of scope of request]**

Issue 1 – Child Poverty and Family Support

- Child Poverty – Scottish Child Payment – Aberlour called for this to be increased to at least £40 in their letter to FM.

**[Out of scope of request]**

Kind regards

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**



14. **DOCUMENT 14** – Policy delivery quarterly report

[Out of scope of request]

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 7:44 AM  
**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR ACTION – Best Start, Bright Futures Programme – Quarterly Report – For return 12pm Tuesday 24 September

Good Morning All,

We have been asked to provide updates for Best Start Bright Futures quarterly reporting.

[Out of scope of request]

<u>ID/RAG</u>	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Policy Lead</u>	<u>Analytical Lead</u>
SOC1	We will double the value of the Scottish Child Payment (SCP) to £20 per week per child from April 2022, and will roll out the SCP in full and further increase the payment to £25 per week per child by the end of 2022.	[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]	[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]

[Out of scope of request]

[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]

[Out of scope of request]

<u>ID/RAG</u>	<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Policy Lead</u>	<u>Analytical Lead</u>
SOC1	We will double the value of the Scottish Child Payment (SCP) to £20 per week per child from April 2022, and will roll out the SCP in full and further increase the payment to £25 per week per child by the end of 2022.	[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]	[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]

[Out of scope of request]

15. **DOCUMENT 15**

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

16. **DOCUMENT 16**

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

17. **DOCUMENT 17** – Social Security up-rating email discussion

**[Out of scope of request]**

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024 2:25 PM

**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Social security up-rating - updated policy

Dear all

**[Out of scope of request]**

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

For the avoidance of doubt, the existing statutory duty to increase in line with inflation all disability and carer assistance, employment injury assistance, funeral expenses assistance and the Scottish Child Payment, would be unchanged.

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

**[Redacted under Section 25 - Information otherwise available]**

**[Redacted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

**[Out of scope of request]**

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**

**Procedural and International Policy Team Leader**

**Social Security Policy Division**

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**

**The Scottish Government**

5 Atlantic Quay

150 Broomielaw

Glasgow G2 8LU

**18. DOCUMENT 18**

**[Exempted under Section 30 (b)(i) - Free and frank provision of advice]**

19. **DOCUMENT 19** – High level statistics – Scottish Child Payment

**[Exempted under Section 25 - Information otherwise available]**

20. **DOCUMENT 20**

**[Exempted under Section 29 – Formulation of Scottish Administration policy]**

21. **DOCUMENT 21** – Barnardo’s child poverty BBC query

**[Out of scope of request]**

**From:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 5:47 PM

**To:** [Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** To clear - BBC/PA/Herald media query - Barnardos child poverty

**[Out of scope of request]**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**[Exempted under Section 25 - Information otherwise available]**

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**

Media Manager

Scottish Government

**[Redacted under Section 38 – Personal Information]**