

Document 1 - Calculations of PAWHP costing

July 24 PAWHP - Pension Credit as QB costing for policy.xlsx

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Document 2 - Extract from emails discussing UK govt announcement on means-testing Winter Heating Payment

Documents 3 and 4 were attached to this email chain

From: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:45 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Social Security Scotland Chief Executive <ce@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; David Wallace <David.Wallace@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Parliamentary Unit <SocialSecurityParliamentaryUnit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; James Wallace <James.Wallace@gov.scot>

Subject: OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE - UK Government Announcement on means-testing Winter Fuel Payment - Initial Advice

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

1. We spoke earlier today. As you know, the Chancellor set out plans this afternoon to end universal Winter Fuel Payments in England and Wales by restricting it to those receiving Pension Credit “or other means tested benefits” from this year onwards. This is projected to save the UK Government £1.4bn this year and £1.5bn next year (25/26).
2. In full, the associated publication - *Fixing the Foundations: Public Spending Audit 2024-25* - notes at paragraph 43 that targeting will be aimed at households:

“with someone aged over State Pension age receiving Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance and income-related Employment and Support Allowance. [Winter Fuel Payments] will continue to be worth £200 for eligible households, or £300 for eligible households with someone aged over 80. This will better target support for heating costs at those who need it, while all pensioners will benefit from the government’s commitment to maintain the triple lock for the basic and new State Pension in this Parliament. Winter Fuel Payments are devolved in Scotland and Northern Ireland”.

3. Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (PAWHP) is due to replace Winter Fuel Payments (WFP) in Scotland this winter as a universal benefit. Prior to this announcement the expected Block Grant Adjustment (BGA) was forecast by the SFC in December 2023 to be £180 million. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Redacted as out of scope]

Stephen

Stephen Kerr

Social Security Director | T: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | E: stephen.kerr@gov.scot

P Please save paper – do you need to print this e-mail?

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

it's understood means-testing Winter Fuel Payments will reduce the funding given to the Scottish Government associated with our planned replacement Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.

[Redacted as out of scope]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

T: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] M: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] E: CabSecforSJ@gov.scot

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Document 4 – Briefing in response to WFP announcement

29 July: The Chancellor Rachel Reeves today announced plans to end universal Winter Fuel Payments in England and Wales by restricting it to those receiving Pension Credit “or other means tested benefits” from this year onwards. This is projected to save the UK Government £1.4bn this year and £1.5bn next year (25/26).

TOP LINES

The Chancellor's announcement on means-testing Winter Fuel Payments will impact the Block Grant Adjustments associated with equivalent devolved payments in Scotland

- It will be important for the Scottish Government to understand the UK Government's plans and take stock of the implications.
- Responsibility for Winter Fuel Payment will be transferred to the Scottish Government this winter (2024-25), with these payments funded from within the 2024-25 Scottish Budget. The full implications of the Chancellor's statement are being examined, however it's understood means-testing Winter Fuel Payments will reduce the funding given to the Scottish Government associated with our planned replacement, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.

[Redacted as out of scope]

Document 5 – Email chain regarding Ministerial briefing regarding changes to WFP – The attachment is included as document 7.

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 7:04 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot> **Cc:** FM Policy Team Mailbox <fmpolicyteam@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Social Security Scotland Chief Executive <ce@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Scotland Parliamentary Team <parliamentarycorrespondence@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; James Wallace <James.Wallace@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: Winter Fuel Payment

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

As discussed, attached is a note from Ms Somerville to FM on yesterday's UKG announcement on Winter Fuel Payments.

Happy to set up a discussion once FM has considered, if helpful.

Thank you!

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

M: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] E: CabSecforSJ@gov.scot

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Document 6 – Email from Stephen Kerr to Cab sec PO with attachment on options for PAWHP – Attachment is included as document 7

From: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:56 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Social Security Scotland Chief Executive <ce@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; David Wallace <David.Wallace@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Parliamentary Unit <SocialSecurityParliamentaryUnit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; James Wallace <James.Wallace@gov.scot>

Subject: OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE - UK Government Announcement on Means-Testing Winter Fuel Payment - Draft FM Note

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]


I attach a draft note for Ms Somerville to send to the FM. Per your steer via Teams from FMPDU, I have laid out two options without a recommendation.

Many thanks,

Stephen

Stephen Kerr

Social Security Director | T: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | E: stephen.kerr@gov.scot

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FIRST MINISTER

UK GOVERNMENT'S MEANS-TESTING OF WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMME

Introduction

1. This note sets out the implications of the Chancellor's announcement yesterday (29th July) to end universal Winter Fuel Payments in England and Wales by restricting it from this year onwards to those receiving Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits which pensioners can access. This is projected to save the UK Government £1.4bn this year and £1.5bn next year (25/26).

Summary

2. In summary, we have two options ahead of us:

- Option 1: [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
- Option 2: [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Background

3. Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (PAWHP) was due to replace Winter Fuel Payment (WFP) in Scotland this winter as a universal benefit. Prior to this announcement the expected Block Grant Adjustment (BGA) was forecast by the SFC in December 2023 to be £180 million.

4. Modelling produced by my officials as part [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Discussion – Option 1

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Discussion – Option 2

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

5. This would mean the Scottish Government position would be as follows:

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Conclusion

6. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

7. I would welcome an urgent discussion with you as we look to arrive at a decision.

SAS
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

Document 8 - Parliamentary Question on assessment of UK Government's decision to means test Winter Fuel Payment – available from Scottish Parliament website.

[Exempted under s.25 (Information otherwise accessible)]

Document 9 – Email chain discussing how WFP changes will affect the BGA

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 1:05 PM
To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Cc: [Redacted Section [38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](#); [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section [38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](#); [Redacted Section [38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](#); [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>
Subject: Redacted - out of scope

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)],

Apologies, please ignore my previous email. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)] as I said below.

Best wishes,
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: 30 July 2024 12:33
To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>
Subject: Redacted – out of scope

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)], thanks for that confirmation. Our previous estimated, [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)] I'll let you know once we get updated figures. [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Head of Social Security Strategy, Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits
Social Security Policy Division | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government
Mob: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] ✉ [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:46 AM
To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>
Subject: [Redacted as out of scope]

Morning [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted as out of scope]

As [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] noted below we've included [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. The SFC forecast for WFP at the delayed MTFS were c£180m, would you expect a similar level of reduction if the SG were to mirror the change in policy applied in England?

Thanks

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:17 AM
To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: [Redacted as out of scope]

Morning [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)], [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] forwarded on your email from yesterday. Can I just double check [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)] This is likely to be for a relatively large sum, perhaps in the region of up to £160m. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)] [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Head of Social Security Strategy, Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits
Social Security Policy Division | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government
Mob: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] ✉ [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 5:30 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: [Redacted as out of scope]

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]/ [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

(Copying in [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] from our team).

We agreed BGAs with [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

If you need any further info on this or would like to have a chat to discuss it, happy to help.

Best wishes,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Document 10 - Discussion of financial analysis of WFP changes

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 12:38 PM

To: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Cc: Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mick Wilson <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

*Adding Strategic Finance and CAD colleagues and removing comms colleagues.

Hi Ian, all,

Thanks – the point on take-up is interesting and [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Our preliminary analysis suggests that [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. There are also likely to be other knock-on effects, e.g. to Cold Weather Payment / Winter Heating Payment, for which PC is a qualifying benefit. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 5:52 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Cc: Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

Thanks [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]. I think we all recognise this but good to know you will update as best you can.

Important we also recognise [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

All points to need to continue to caveat in the way you describe.

Ian

IAN DAVIDSON (he/him)

Deputy Director, Social Security Policy

ian.davidson2@gov.scot

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 5:47 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Cc: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme

Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

Hi all,

I am aware the line has been issued already but wanted to come back with a couple of points of clarification.

As mentioned below, the estimated expenditure reduction of £160m was from [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)], and was based on changing eligibility to [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. We think “up to £160m” will be technically correct but the figure could be lower – we are working on producing and checking an updated version of this estimate, using the latest forecasts and outturn data, and will aim to share this tomorrow.

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

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W: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

T: [@SocSecScot](#) & [@ScotGovFairer](#)

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:31 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Cc: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <[17](mailto:Emilie-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

Thanks both, on further consideration I'm going to move this into the background. Grateful for further thoughts on wording.

[Exempted under S30(b)(1)(free and frank provision of advice)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:26 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Cc: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)], I'd edit slight to say "which is estimated will reduce our funding by up to £160 million". [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)] [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Head of Social Security Strategy, Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits

Social Security Policy Division | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government

Mob: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] ✉ [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:21 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>

Cc: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted

Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

Thanks [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Exempted under S30(b)(1)(free and frank provision of advice)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 4:09 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

Thanks [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]!

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. Content for it to go then – thank you!

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

M: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] E: CabSecforSJ@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 3:51 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; >; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>

Subject: To clear - proactive comment on Winter Fuel Payment decision

PO/Cab Sec,

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

We will issue the statement [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Is the Cab Sec content to clear? Grateful for returns by 17:00 today.

Statement

Social Justice Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

“The Chancellor’s decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payment is disappointing and was made without consultation or discussion with the Scottish Government, which contrasts with the UK Government’s commitment to have a better working relationship.

“We are urgently considering the financial impact of the UK government’s cut to Winter Fuel Payment in England and Wales, and what this means for our replacement, Pension Age Winter Heating Payments in Scotland.

[Redacted as out of scope]

ENDS

[Redacted as out of scope]

Document 11 – Discussion of brief on UK government's spending audit

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 3:56 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: Brief on the UK Government's Public Spending Audit 2024-25

Thanks [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)],

Ah okay so it's the last figure that was calculated, that's helpful to know. I think after discussion yesterday and this morning I'm convinced that's right, up to you if you want to check with [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)].

Cheers,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 12:43 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: FOR AWARENESS: Brief on the UK Government's Public Spending Audit 2024-25

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)],

Thanks for sharing this.

In terms of the £160 million, [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] explained in a separate email that it was calculated as part of [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)] .

I believe that's correct with how [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. I can check with [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]?

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Document 12 - Email exchange on calculation of Block Grant Allowance following WFP changes
[Attachment Redacted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
[Attachment outside scope of FOI request]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 11:48 AM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: WFP BGA

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)],

No problem at all. On the BGA calculations, HMT have shared a DWP Excel with the new WFP forecasts, which includes [Redacted as out of scope].

HMT also shared a BGA Excel which factors this in (also attached), plus [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

In terms HMT contacts, these are the two contacts I've used for gathering outturn for the Outturn Report:

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@dwp.gov.uk

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@dwp.gov.uk

I've just asked HMT if I can share the contact details for whoever in DWP sent them updated WFP forecasts. I'll pass that on as soon as I get it.

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: 14 August 2024 08:20

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: WFP BGA

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)],

Thanks that's helpful to see and it definitely seems to suggest a larger reduction in WFP, which is what we expected based on our analysis. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

Sorry I think you might have provided this already but if you are able to provide a contact I could contact them as well to check how their assumptions differ from ours in their estimate?

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)

Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 5:27 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: WFP BGA

Hi all,

Following our discussion on the Winter Fuel Payment BGA, [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

I asked HMT about the £1.4bn cut for 2024/25 and £1.5bn cut for 2025/26 and they were confident that this was entirely and exclusively WFP. However, the table above shows that this is actually more than £.1.4 and £.5bn. I can try and seek out more info on this, but sharing what I have from them for now.

Thanks,
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Document 13 – Extract of email exchange regarding WFP/PAWHP briefing

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 7:59 PM

To: Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; > [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Thanks [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] for persevering[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. I agree with Jennie that it's accurate to stick with [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Fiscal Coordination | Exchequer Strategy Directorate | The Scottish Government
3-C (South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ | Mob: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 7:28 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 August 2024 18:45

To: : [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

As per my comment earlier [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Many thanks,
Jennie

Jennie Barugh

Director of Exchequer Strategy | Scottish Government | [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | jennie.barugh@gov.scot | St. Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |pronouns she/her

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 6:10 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] – there’s a general line in [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] briefing you can use, plus a couple added below from the FMQ on Chancellors Statement, if helpful:

[Redacted as out of scope]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 5:44 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

We’re looking for top lines on the challenging financial position across government.

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Winter Heating Benefits Policy Manager | Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits Policy Unit | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government | Area 1A South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh EH6 6QQ |

Keep up to date with the development of our new social security powers:

W: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

T: [@SocSecScot](#) & [@ScotGovFairer](#)

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 5:19 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Elise Black <Elise.Black@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Sorry for the delayed reply. Can I ask for a steer on what lines would be helpful? [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

In terms of the 09:30 announcement, do you have any info you can share on that? Is it a press release? If so, would it be OK to share that?

I've copied in [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] and [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]. Do you have lines on WFP/PAWHP that could be shared?

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: 13 August 2024 16:22

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Thanks for sharing the update [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]!

As mentioned we don't have many lines that we could offer, but in the interests of time [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] has helpfully extracted some from our previous briefing packs, which might assist you. If you need anything more specific then give us a shout. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Redacted as out of scope]

Best wishes

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Head of Financial Policy & Budget Coordination | Strategic Finance | Social Security Directorate

Scottish Government | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw G2 8LU

Please note that I work part-time hours with Monday being my normal non-working day

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:40 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Importance: High

Hi all,

You'll see from the email below [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. I have tried to identify relevant individuals based on OOO's but please do include any other colleagues you think may need to feed in.

PO has noted DFM will be taking these as [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)], and therefore the focus will be on the financial position.

Could you please provide lines for us to include in briefing ASAP. Apologies, you'll see we are working to a very tight deadline and need to get briefing to PO today.

Thanks

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Winter Heating Benefits Policy Manager | Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits Policy Unit | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government | Area 1A South, Victoria Quay | Edinburgh EH6 6QQ |

Keep up to date with the development of our new social security powers:

W: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

T: [@SocSecScot](#) & [@ScotGovFairer](#)

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:29 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: FW: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Importance: High

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Team Leader | Winter Benefits & SWF Policy | Social Security Policy Division | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government

Mobile: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | **Email:** [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX



I am hybrid working partly in the office and partly at home and can be contacted directly on MS Teams

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024

Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 3:20 PM

To: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Social Security BMU <SSDBMU@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot Social Security Scotland Chief Executive <ce@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Subject: IMMEDIATE: Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Importance: High

Hi all,

Thank you for everyone's work on our response to the UKG decision on Winter Fuel Payments in the past days.

Following the Cabinet discussion this morning and discussions over the past week, [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

If I'm missing anything, please get in touch/send on, but grateful for everything to be as neat and concise as possible given the many moving parts and pace at which we need to move. Please keep emails to a minimum.

ELP and I are both available if anything needs checking.

Thank you!

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice

M: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] E: CabSecforSJ@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Ministerial Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Document 14 – Extract of email chain discussing response to Anas Sarwar’s comments on PAWHP

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 2:58:38 PM

To: Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: Spad view - Anas Sarwar comments on PAWHP

Hi all,

I agree with keeping the line [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 2:06:36 PM

To: Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit

<socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad view - Anas Sarwar comments on PAWHP

Thanks Ian and Jack. Picking up as [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] is now in a meeting and I've tightened slightly [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] – grateful if you could please check for your interests.

Social Justice Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

“The UK Government’s decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payment is disappointing and was made without consultation or discussion with the Scottish Government.

“We are urgently considering the financial impact of the UK Government’s cut to Winter Fuel Payment in England and Wales, and what this means for our replacement, Pension Age Winter Heating Payments in Scotland. It is estimated this UK Government change will reduce Scotland’s funding by up to £160 million in what is already an extremely challenging financial climate.

[Redacted as out of scope]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Communications Team Leader
Social Justice portfolio | Scottish Government
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: Ian Davidson <ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:59 PM

To: Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad view - Anas Sarwar comments on PAWHP

Thanks Redacted Section 38(1)(b)), [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] – OK with that?

Ian

IAN DAVIDSON (he/him)
Deputy Director, Social Security Policy
ian.davidson2@gov.scot
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:55 PM
To: Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>
Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Spad view - Anas Sarwar comments on PAWHP

Thanks Jack,

Had kept the [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. Happy for it to stay in background?

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 1:25:18 PM
To: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>
Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>
Subject: Spad view - Anas Sarwar comments on PAWHP

Spads,

We have been approached by PA to respond to [Redacted as out of scope]

[Exempted under s 30(b)(i)(free and frank provision of advice)

ENDS

[Redacted as out of scope]

Document 15 – Extract of email discussing lines released to address Anas Sarwar’s comments

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 3:01 PM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Leanne Carson <Leanne.Carson@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Policy/Programme Parliamentary Business Unit <socialsecurity_parliamentarybusinessunit@gov.scot>; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: Lines to clear - media enquiry - Anas Sarwar comments on PAWHP

PO Social Justice Secretary

We have been approached by PA to respond to comments [Redacted as out of scope]

We’ve agreed the following response [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Thanks

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Social Justice Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:

“The UK Government’s decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payment is disappointing and was made without consultation or discussion with the Scottish Government.

“We are urgently considering the financial impact of the UK Government’s cut to Winter Fuel Payment in England and Wales, and what this means for our replacement, Pension Age Winter Heating Payments in Scotland. It is estimated this UK Government change will reduce Scotland’s funding by up to £160 million in what is already an extremely challenging financial climate.

[Redacted as out of scope]

ENDS

[Redacted as out of scope]

Document 16 – Emails discussing calculation of figures released following announced WFP changes

Attachment – Excel sheet July 24 PAWHP – Pension Credit as QB costing for policy [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 7:24 AM
To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] @fiscalcommission.scot>
Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Subject: RE: WFP changes

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Sure – attached. Not too much of an update yet, [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]
Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] @fiscalcommission.scot>
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 7:01 AM
To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: WFP changes

Morning [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Thanks for sharing the working, would it be possible to have a “hard” copy of your workings for reference. I am not able to access the erdm folder.

Are you aware of any update since last week?

We meet last week with [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] and [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] and [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Regards

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 5:53 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] @fiscalcommission.scot>

Subject: WFP changes

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

As discussed I worked on updating a version of [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

The starting point [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

- [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
- [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Happy to discuss if helpful.

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

Document 17 – Email chain discussing change in Block Grant Allowance following changes to Winter Fuel Payment
Please note – this is the final email on the email chain that can be found under Document 12 - Email exchange on calculation of Block Grant Allowance following WFP changes

[Attachment Redacted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
[Attachment outside scope of FOI request]

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 11:33 AM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: WFP BGA

Hi all,

Sorry for the delay in coming back on the DWP contact. I've now heard back from HMT, who said the following:

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@dwp.gov.uk is our contact in DWP in terms of AME. If you are going to put in a call might be useful for HMT to join too".

Let me know if I can help with setting up a meeting involving [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] and HMT.

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Fiscal Framework Policy Officer

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

e: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Document 18 – Extract of email exchange regarding comms briefing on the change to Block Grant Allowance in light of PAWHP and WFP changes

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:56 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Updated comms briefing - Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Sorry – my mistake – I meant to say [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:52 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Updated comms briefing - Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

The figure of [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

The latest published PC caseload is 125,136 in Scotland. The latest published take-up is 63% [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

[Income-related benefits: estimates of take-up: financial year ending 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up-financial-year-ending-2022)

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:16 PM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

Subject: FW: IMMEDIATE: Updated comms briefing - Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Importance: High

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] – I just wanted to check, [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Team Leader | Winter Benefits & SWF Policy | Social Security Policy Division | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government

Mobile: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | **Email:** [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX



I am hybrid working partly in the office and partly at home and can be contacted directly on MS Teams

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** First Minister

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 2:06 PM

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot> [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Social Security BMU <SSDBMU@gov.scot>; Social Security Scotland Chief Executive <ce@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;; Director of Public Spending <DirectorofPublicSpending@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Parliamentary Unit <SocialSecurityParliamentaryUnit@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Updated comms briefing - Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

Importance: High

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]/ [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)].

The First Minister has asked [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

He has requested this answer urgently please.

Many thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary

Office of the First Minister

5th Floor | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

The First Minister's box closes at 2pm, Monday to Friday. Further details, including preferences, can be found [here](#).

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

From: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; **On Behalf Of** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 9:39 AM

To: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot >; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>

Cc: DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Social Security BMU <SSDBMU@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Scotland Chief Executive <ce@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Communications Finance and Local Government <CommunicationsFinanceandLocalGovernment@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; John Webster <John.Webster@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Jennie Barugh <Jennie.Barugh@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director of Public Spending <DirectorofPublicSpending@gov.scot>; [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Social Security Parliamentary Unit <SocialSecurityParliamentaryUnit@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE: Updated comms briefing - Winter Fuel Payment/Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

DFM would like to check some figures in the next hour – she has stressed this is a very tight timescale to get these figures:

1. [Redacted as out of scope]
2. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
3. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
4. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
5. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]
6. What was the original budget associated and what is the budget now? **Prior to the Chancellor's announcement the Block Grant Adjustment (BGA) was forecast by the SFC in December 2023 to be £180 million associated with the devolution of WFP. The UK Government's approach reduces the Block-Grant Adjustment by an estimated £140 million to £160 million in 2024-25, nearly 90% of the cost of the Scottish Government's new replacement benefit, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.**

Grateful for confirmation this has been picked up.

Kind regards,
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic – Kate Forbes MSP

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)], Leas-rùnaire Prìobhaideach dhan Leas-Phrìomh Mhinistear is do Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh is Gàidhlig – Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

M: [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] E: DFMCSF@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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

[Redacted as out of scope]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] | Communications Team Leader
Social Justice portfolio | Scottish Government

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]/ [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Document 20 – Ministerial briefing for media appearance regarding PAWHP

Winter Heating Benefits - PAWHP - Briefing for media bids - 14 August 2024.docx

[Redacted as out of scope]

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Key message(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The UK Government recently announced an intention to move away from a universal Winter Fuel Payment and to restrict entitlement to those in receipt of Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits from this winter.• As the Winter Fuel Payment is devolved, this will result in the funding the Scottish Government receives being cut by an estimated £140 million and £160 million.• As a result, the Scottish Government has no choice but to replicate the decision made by the UK Government and restrict eligibility for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment to older people on relevant eligible benefits.• Despite all efforts to review our financial position we have been left with no choice but to follow the UK Government and restrict payments to older people who receive relevant eligible benefits.• This is a necessary decision when faced with such a deep cut to our funding and in the most challenging financial circumstances since devolution. The reduction we are facing amounts to as much as 90% of the cost of Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.• [Redacted as out of scope] |
|-----------------------|---|

KEY ISSUES

- On 29 July, the Chancellor set out plans to end universal Winter Fuel Payments in England and Wales by restricting it to those receiving Pension Credit and other means tested benefits from this year onwards.
- On 14 August, Scottish Government announced to Parliament our intention to replicate of the decision made by the UK Government and restrict winter payments to older people in receipt of relevant eligible benefits.

TOP LINES

- The Chancellor's decision was taken without notice despite officials from both governments working closely on the social security programme together. The Winter Fuel announcement was an example of how we still have work to do to work better together.
- The UK Government's approach reduces the Block-Grant Adjustment associated with devolution of the UK's Winter Fuel Payment by an estimated £140 million to £160 million in 2024-25, nearly 90% of the cost of the Scottish Government's new replacement benefit, Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.
- Following careful consideration of the options available for Scotland, and despite all efforts to review our financial position, we have been left with no choice but to follow the UK Government and restrict payments to older people who receive relevant eligible benefits.

[Redacted as out of scope]

[Redacted as out of scope]

- The majority of Scotland's funding is directly determined by the UK Government's spending outlook because of what we receive via Barnett consequential for the areas devolved to Scotland.
- This means that we face a very challenging situation as we continue to manage our finances through the current financial year and look to set our budget for 2025-26.

[Redacted as out of scope]

How many people will now be eligible for a ‘means-tested’ payment in Scotland this winter?

- It is likely to now only provide support to up to 130,000 individuals in receipt of Pension Credit and other means-tested benefits.

How many people who would have received PAWHP will now not be eligible for a payment?

- The initial caseload for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment under universal entitlement was anticipated to be roughly 1 million.
- Based on current Pension Credit uptake, initial analysis suggests that the caseload in Scotland will decrease by around 900,000 in 2024-25 following the introduction of means-testing.

[Redacted as out of scope]

Document 21 – Email exchange on comms handling around Pension Age Winter Heating Payment

From: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 8:24 AM

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Gaelic <DFMCSEG@gov.scot>

Cc: Stephen Kerr <Stephen.Kerr@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Miriam Craven <Miriam.Craven@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; Johanna Gray <Johanna.Gray@gov.scot>; Julie Mclean <Julie.Mclean@gov.scot>; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director of Public Spending <DirectorofPublicSpending@gov.scot>; Jamie MacDougall <Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Chief Financial Officer <cfo@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Ian Davidson <Ian.Davidson2@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Julie Grant <Julie.Grant@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Social Security Parliamentary Unit <SocialSecurityParliamentaryUnit@gov.scot>; Social Security Legal Advisors <social_security_legal_advisors@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Julie Humphreys <Julie.Humphreys2@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government <CabSecFLG@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance <MinisterPF@gov.scot>; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: TO CLEAR: Pension Age Winter Heating Payment - Comms handling`

POs/Cab Secs, and copylist,

I'm reattaching the News Release, social media post and bullet points for the voice clip with a slight amendment to each. This is to remove the words "for the benefit" in references to "this will see the Scottish Government's funding cut by up to £160 million *for the benefit*". [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Redacted as out of scope]

For awareness, and grateful if the Social Justice Secretary can note these changes with a view to clearance,
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Document 22 – Email exchange regarding Winter Fuel Payment Parliamentary Question

From: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 6:39 PM

To: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Cc: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;

Subject: RE: WFP PQ Analysis Request

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]. Initial analysis suggests [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

DWP are anticipating [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

We estimate that the expenditure on PAWHP would reduce by up to £160m in 2024-25, [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

In terms of the impact on pensioner poverty, there were estimated to be around [150k pensioners](#) in relative poverty after housing costs in 2020-23. [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Happy to discuss further.

Thanks,

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

Assistant Economist | Modelling and Forecasting | Social Security Analysis, Forecasting and Evaluation (SSAFE)

Communities Analysis Division (CAD) | Scottish Government

From: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 2:21 PM
To: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Cc: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;
Subject: RE: WFP PQ Analysis Request

Hi[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] ,

Unfortunately, we haven't done [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

[Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)]

Happy to chat

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

From: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 10:45 AM
To: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Cc: Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot
Subject: WFP PQ Analysis Request

Hi [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] and [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)],

I hope you're both well. I'm just getting in touch as we've received the following Parliamentary Question:

- To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact of the UK Government's reported decision to means test Winter Fuel Payment on Social Security Scotland's Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, and any subsequent effects on pensioner poverty levels in Scotland.

Conscious we've received analysis from you previously [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)], [Exempted under s.29(1)(a) (formulation of Scottish Administration policy)].

Copying in [Redacted Section 38(1)(b)] in case there's anything additional you could provide [Redacted as out of scope]

If possible, we'd be really grateful for a response by close this Thursday to allow time to draft and clear our PQ response.

Best wishes,
[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted Section 38(1)(b)]
Policy Officer | Social Security Strategy, Welfare Fund and Winter Benefits Policy Unit | Social Security Directorate | Scottish Government

Keep up to date with the development of our new social security powers:

W: <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

T: [@SocSecScot](#) & [@ScotGovFairer](#)