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Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP  
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London  
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By Email: [secretaryofstate@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:secretaryofstate@dwp.gov.uk)

16 December 2024

Dear Liz,

Thank you for your letter and commitment to support the work to mitigate the two-child limit in Scotland, a crucial step in tackling child poverty in this country, building on the wide-ranging action we have already taken, including the establishment of the Scottish Child Payment. Through our mitigation policy we expect to provide up to £3,500 per child per annum which, as CPAG in Scotland estimates, could lift around 15,000 children out of poverty.

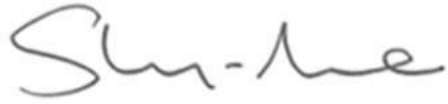
As you will be aware our officials are already in discussions about the data and information that we will require to administer payments. Further meetings will take place before Christmas. For information, the attached Annex contains details of the data we anticipate will be needed.

As officials have also discussed, it is essential that any UK legislation to make provision for payments to be disregarded for the purposes of assessing entitlement for relevant reserved benefits is also taken forward in good time for when payments go live. Such payments must also be excluded from the Benefits Cap. The Scottish Government will take legislation to the Scottish Parliament as quickly as possible next year and we would expect, in keeping with the Prime Minister's undertaking last week to the First Minister to do everything possible, that UK legislation will be prioritised accordingly.

It would be helpful if we could meet reasonably soon in the New Year to take stock of the progress being made by officials. My Private Office will therefore be in touch with you in that regard.

I have copied this letter to the First Minister; Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Ian Murray, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley-Anne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**

## **ANNEX**

### **Two child limit mitigation – Data Requirements**

- Data for all children attached to the Universal Credit claim, including date of birth.
- Data for which children on the Universal Credit claim are included in the UC payment.
- Data for all children who are paid under the Universal Credit exemptions rules including the exemption reason.
- Central Payment System benefit code.
- All data already shared by DWP for the purposes of administering Scottish Child Payment but expanded to include children up to age 19 years old (up to and including 31 August following their 19th birthday, if they are in eligible training or education).
- Data on the UC payment cycles for the claims.

This is not a definitive list as discussions are ongoing between officials.