



T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Clare Adamson, MSP

Convener

Social Security Committee

SocialSecurityCommittee@parliament.scot

21 December 2017

During my appearance at the Social Security Committee this morning, I undertook to provide information on the following points:

Family Reunion Crisis Grant

I can confirm that the Scottish Government is committed to paying a Family Reunion Crisis Grant. I can also confirm that £100,000 has been set aside in the Equality budget for the Family Reunion Crisis Grant Fund in 2018-19. The mechanism for paying the grant will be the Scottish Welfare Fund which, as the Committee will be aware, is delivered by Local Authorities in Scotland.

Employability Schemes

We do not have data on the volumes of those on Industrial Injuries benefits who are keen to re-enter the labour market. However, we agree that for those who do, it's essential to be able to offer suitable support. They may have been out of work from some years and will certainly need tailored and personalised assistance.

We are considering how such individuals can be made aware of available employment support alongside communications being sent by the Social Security Agency. Where Fair Start Scotland is seen as the most suitable service for them, and as long as they are out of work, then they will be eligible because of their disability.

It may be however, that other support is required. We will work with the Social Security Agency and such individuals to ensure they are signposted to the most suitable provision, whether this is funded by the Scottish Government or other sources such as local government or Big Lottery.

Kind regards



JEANE FREEMAN