Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas Sòisealta agus Taigheadas
Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Craig Hoy MSP
Convener
Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP.

By email to: SJHLG.committee@parliamentscot

21 October 2026

Dear Convener,

I am pleased to inform you that the Scottish Government has today published its latest Benefit Take-up Strategy, setting out our approach to increasing awareness, take-up and access to Scottish social security benefits.

The publication of the Strategy fulfils the Scottish Government's statutory duty under the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 to produce a benefit take-up strategy. The Strategy reflects our continuing commitment to ensuring that people receive the entitlements and support to which they are entitled.

The development of the Strategy was informed by extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including representative organisations, advice providers, third sector partners, local authorities and people with lived experience. Their insights and expertise have played an important role in shaping both the priorities and outcomes set out in the document.

We would like to thank stakeholders for their valuable contributions throughout the development of the Strategy and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to deliver its commitments and improve outcomes for people across Scotland.

A copy of the Strategy is available at https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781807756758.

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I hope the Committee finds this update helpful and look forward to working with the Committee as the work arising from the Strategy progresses.

Yours sincerely

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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