



F/T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Elena Whitham MSP  
Convener  
Social Justice and Social Security Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP  
[sjss.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:sjss.committee@parliament.scot)

5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Convener,

I am writing to let you know that in the coming weeks we will be laying regulations which, amongst other things, will include provisions to extend Scottish Child Payment to under 16 year olds and increase the weekly rate to £25 per child. These parts of the regulations will come into effect on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, meaning from that date:

- all children currently in receipt of Scottish Child Payment will have it automatically increased to £25 per week,
- we will open applications for Scottish Child Payment to all eligible under-16s – with all payments backdated to the date we receive their application - ensuring that an additional 300,000 children are potentially eligible for it.

I have been clear that expanding delivery of the Scottish Child Payment - the most ambitious child poverty reduction measure in the UK – is an important action that can mitigate the growing cost emergency. This increased rate will mean that over 100,000 children in low income households will have benefitted from a 150% increase in Scottish Child Payment in just eight months and taken together, our Five Family Payments could be worth over £10,000 by the time a family's first child reaches 6, and £9,700 for subsequent children.

This increased payment of £25 per week per child is estimated to lift 50,000 children out of poverty and reduce relative child poverty by 5 percentage points in 2023-24.

Extending Scottish Child Payment from under-6s to under-16s is reliant on final checks on data we've needed from the DWP - and given the large number of children who will be newly eligible we are expecting significant volumes of applications. People applying for the first time may therefore need to wait before receiving their initial payment, but can be reassured this will be backdated to the date they send in their application. In the meantime Bridging

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



Payments will continue to be paid, with a minimum payment of £130 in both October and December, providing immediate support to around 145,000 eligible children and young people.

The regulations will also introduce automatic awards of our Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and Best Start Grant School Age Payment to eligible families in receipt of Scottish Child Payment. This will stop the need to apply as part of our commitment to make it easier for people to access the financial support they are entitled to and eligible for.

I hope you agree that these improvements show that when it comes to doing what we can to tackle poverty and support families dealing with the cost crisis we are putting our money where our mouth is; a total of £84 million has been paid to families since Scottish Child Payment was introduced less than 18 months ago, with expenditure expected to be around £428 million in 2023/24 - the first full financial year of the increased and extended payment.

Yours sincerely,



**SHONA ROBISON**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**™  
We invest in people Silver

