



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Shirley-Anne Somerville
MSP,
Cabinet Secretary for Social
Justice,
Scottish Government

Social Justice and Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Via email only

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20 March 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Spilt payments of Universal Credit

At its meeting on 14 March 2024, the Social Justice and Social Security Committee reviewed its work programme, and as part of that agreed to seek an update on progress with split payments of Universal Credit.

We note [PQ S6W-19509](#) lodged by Paul O’Kane on 29 June 2023 and answered on 17 July 2023 as follows:

‘Scottish Government officials are continuing to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to consider the feasibility of introducing split payments of Universal Credit. Officials expect to submit a formal policy proposal to DWP soon, for them to impact assess.


The managed migration of people on legacy benefits onto Universal Credit will form part of DWP’s impact assessment of the split payment policy, and the Scottish Government will consider any impacts in due course. We will then be able to update on the feasibility of the policy.’

The Committee would appreciate further information on the following issues:

- Who has the Scottish Government consulted on this policy and what issues arose?
- Has a final policy been submitted to the DWP for an impact assessment?
- Can the Scottish Government provide details of what that policy is and how it proposes to split the Universal Credit payment? Members would be interested to know for example which Universal Credit elements will be paid to which member of the couple, and whether both members of the couple would have to agree to the payment being split.
- What are the barriers to achieving this policy and how might these be removed? In particular what impact is Universal Credit migration having on the achievement of this policy?
- Following the consultation, does the Scottish Government still consider this policy is feasible?

A response by 24 April would assist the Committee with its scrutiny of benefits.

Yours sincerely,



Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee