



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **Social Justice and Social Security Committee**

Shirley-Anne Somerville  
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice  
Scottish Government

**17 June 2025**

Dear Cabinet Secretary

### **Winter Heating Assistance (Pension Age) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025**

I am writing to you regarding the Winter Heating Assistance (Pension Age) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 which were laid by the Scottish Government on 6 June.

The purpose of the regulations is to introduce in Scotland universal eligibility for Pension Age Winter Heating Payment (PAWHP) for winter 2025/2026 onwards.

The Committee has scheduled consideration of these regulations at our first meeting back after summer recess, on Thursday, 4 September.

The UK Government recently announced its intention to change the eligibility criteria for the winter fuel payment. The updated approach will mean that every household with a person over the state pension age in England and Wales and an income of up to £35,000 will receive £200 for those aged up to 80 and £300 for those aged over 80. For those with an income of more than £35,000, the money will be recouped through the tax system.

In response to that announcement, the First Minister indicated that pensioners in Scotland are to receive at least the same winter fuel payment as those in England and Wales.

It would be helpful for our work planning purposes if you could please confirm whether the Scottish Government intends to lay regulations to replace the Winter Heating Assistance (Pension Age) (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations.

If replacement regulations are to be laid, is it the Scottish Government's intention for these to be force for winter 2025/2026 onwards? If so, could you please confirm whether the Parliament will have the usual 40-day timeframe to consider the affirmative instrument?

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Contact: Social Justice and Social Security Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email [SJSS.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SJSS.committee@parliament.scot). We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

If you are able to provide an update prior to Thursday, 26 June, that would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Stevenson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Collette Stevenson MSP**  
**Convener**  
**Social Justice and Social Security Committee**