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The Scottish Parliament
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Dear Collette,

I am pleased to write to you today about Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance, also known as Scottish Adult DLA, which launched nationally on 21 March 2025. This new form of disability assistance, delivered by Social Security Scotland, is replacing Disability Living Allowance for adults, currently delivered in Scotland by the Department for Work and Pensions. The introduction of Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance is an important milestone in the Scottish Government's five-year project to safely and securely transfer the disability and carer benefit awards of more than 700,000 people from the Department of Work and Pensions to Social Security Scotland.

Scottish Adult DLA has been developed to provide support for the approximately 66,000 disabled adults in Scotland who are still in receipt of Disability Living Allowance. As Committee members will be aware, when the Department for Work and Pensions introduced Personal Independence Payment for all new applications in 2013, it made a commitment that those over the age of 65 could remain on Disability Living Allowance. Scottish Adult DLA allows us to honour that commitment and extend it to all adults in Scotland, of any age, that are still receive Disability Living Allowance.

Like Disability Living Allowance for adults, Scottish Adult DLA will not be open to new applications. People of working age in Scotland who wish to make a new application for disability assistance should apply for Adult Disability Payment.

People in Scotland currently getting Disability Living Allowance do not need to do anything as their award will be transferred to Scottish Adult DLA automatically. For those born after 8 April 1948, this process will start if they report a change of circumstances or are due a renewal of their DLA award. All other awards will be selected in batches, and the first of these have now been selected. We will continue to select awards for transfer until case transfer completes in 2025.

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Scottish Adult DLA will have the same rates of the care and mobility components and largely mirror the eligibility rules of Disability Living Allowance. This allows people to receive the same amount of Scottish Adult DLA as they received for Disability Living Allowance on transfer, with no gap in their payments. We will communicate clearly with people throughout the process so they know what is happening with their award and when. People should continue to report any changes of circumstances to the Department for Work and Pensions until the transfer of their award is complete.

Once their award has transferred to Scottish Adult DLA, those born after 8 April 1948 may choose to apply for Adult Disability Payment. The eligibility criteria for Adult Disability Payment are different to Scottish Adult DLA, so we recommend that anyone thinking of applying for Adult Disability Payment seeks independent advice before making their decision.

A range of materials to support the launch of Scottish Adult DLA are available on our website at www.mygov.scot/scottish-adult-disability-living-allowance.

I continue to be grateful for the constructive engagement with Committee members, and for the scrutiny role that the Committee has played in the progression of Scottish Adult DLA legislation. I'm sure you'll agree that the national launch of Scottish Adult DLA marks a significant achievement. We are dedicated to the continual development of Scotland's social security system, working in partnership with all key stakeholders, including the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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