



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
UK Government

Via email only

4 November 2025

Dear Secretary of State for Scotland,

Tackling Child Poverty

I am writing to invite you to provide evidence at a meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee on the morning of Thursday, 18 December 2025.

The session will focus on the UK Government's Child Poverty Strategy, which we understand is due to be published imminently.

Reducing child poverty is a vital priority, and we are keen to understand how all available levers are being used across governments to make meaningful progress. In particular, the Committee wishes to explore how the UK Government and the Scotland Office are collaborating with the Scottish Government to reduce child poverty in Scotland.

The Committee is especially interested in hearing about any identified actions in the Strategy and their intended impact.

Your contribution will be essential in helping the Committee scrutinise the oversight role of the Child Poverty Task Force in shaping and delivering the cross-government strategy. We are also eager to explore the mechanisms for implementation and to gain insight into both the short and long-term measures identified to tackle the root causes of child poverty in Scotland.

This evidence session represents a valuable opportunity for the Committee to engage directly with you on how the UK Government intends to collaborate with devolved administrations to ensure the effective delivery of its UK-wide child poverty strategy.

I do hope that you are able to accept this invitation to provide evidence to the Committee either in person or online.

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

An invitation has also been issued to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice to provide evidence separately to the Committee on how the Scottish Government will work with the UK Government to ensure that all levers are used to make progress on this vital issue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Doris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'B' and a distinct 'D'.

**Bob Doris MSP
Deputy Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee**