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Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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31 July 2025

Dear Convener,

Scottish Recommended Allowance Review – Update for Committee

I am writing to provide the Education, Children and Young People Committee with an update on the independent review of the Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA) for foster and kinship carers. This review contributes to our ongoing work to Keep The Promise and reflects the cross-party commitment to improving support for care experienced children and young.

As the Committee is aware, the Scottish Government committed to undertaking an independent review of the SRA for foster and kinship carers. This review provides findings on whether the implementation of the SRA has been met, or is beginning to meet, its core policy objectives. The review sought to explore the extent to which the SRA was bringing greater consistency and transparency to the allowances paid to foster and kinship carers, and to explore if caregivers, no matter where they lived, were receiving at least the SRA.

The review was carried out by KSO Research between October 2024 and March 2025. A total of 32 local authorities participated, alongside several Independent Fostering Agencies, and over 270 foster and kinship carers who responded to the review either by a survey or by being interviewed.

The independent analysis was published on 18 July 2025 and is available [here](#) on the Scottish Government website.

The findings provide the Scottish Government with an important evidence base to inform future policy development in this area and to Keep The Promise. They also offer insight into how the SRA is being implemented at a local level. We will publish next steps on both the Future of Foster Care consultation and the SRA review in due course. We remain committed to working with foster and kinship carers, local authorities, young people with care

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experience and other key stakeholders to consider the findings and inform future developments.

I hope the Committee finds this update helpful, and I will continue to keep you informed as work progresses.

Finally, I am also copying this letter to the Convener of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee given their ongoing interest in kinship care.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Don-Innes MSP
Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

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