



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
UK Government

**18 February 2025**

Dear Secretary of State,

### Tackling child poverty

I wrote to you last month with an invitation to provide evidence at our Committee meeting of 13 March on the work being done by the UK Government to reduce child poverty in Scotland, and in your role as a member of the Child Poverty Task Force.

I understand that you are currently on paternity leave. Your office staff advised that due to tight diary schedules it was not possible for you, or the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, to give evidence over the coming months.

Tackling child poverty is a key objective for the Scottish Government. We are keen to understand how the UK Government is working with devolved governments in developing the UK-wide child poverty strategy.

As such, we would very much welcome the opportunity to hear about the oversight work of the Child Poverty Task Force in the development and publication of a cross-government child poverty strategy to reduce and alleviate child poverty.

I would appreciate it if you would please confirm whether you have any availability on a Thursday morning up to the end of June. There is the option to provide evidence remotely, if required.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, The Scottish Government, for information.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.