



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice
Scottish Government

10 February 2026

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Addressing child poverty through parental employment

I am writing to you on behalf of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee regarding the Committee's inquiry into [Addressing Child Poverty Through Parental Employment](#), which took place across 2022-23.

The inquiry considered issues including the Scottish Government's 'parental employment offer' and the policies and delivery plans connected to it; local approaches and the extent to which they are targeted at those most at risk of poverty who require assistance with employment, childcare, housing and transport needs.

We also considered progress made on the Scottish Government's commitments as part of its Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026. In particular, we noted that the Plan aimed to support up to 12,000 parents to access and sustain employment and up to 3,000 in-work parents to increase their earnings by 2026.

The Committee heard that a whole system approach is needed to address child poverty through parental employment, and some of the recommendations made by the Committee included:

- changes to social security rules to support parents who are undertaking education, so that they are not financially penalised;
- ensuring there is accessible and affordable childcare, transport and housing;
- the availability of good quality, flexible work as a route out of poverty; and
- training provided to develop skills to enable parents to access work.

The Committee's [report](#) was published on 23 November 2023, and we thank the Scottish Government for their [response](#) to this, which was received on 22 January 2024.

Now we are reaching the end of the parliamentary session, the Committee would like to know what progress has been made in this area generally, and on the Committee's recommendations more specifically.

Could you please respond by **Monday, 23 February 2026**.

Yours sincerely,

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

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee