



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Kaukab Stewart MSP,
Minister for Equalities,
Scottish Government

29 May 2025

Dear Minister,

Inquiry into Financial considerations when leaving an abusive relationship

On behalf of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee, many thanks for attending the meeting to discuss key themes related to the Committee's inquiry into financial considerations when leaving an abusive relationship.

You indicated there were areas where colleagues could provide more information, and with that in mind, I have included as an annexe to this letter the questions from the meeting papers.

In addition to these questions, Members were also interested in answers to the following:

- What are the barriers preventing some local authorities from applying to the School Meal Debt Fund?
- Does the Scottish Government believe local authorities should be writing off council tax debt for victim/survivors of domestic abuse?
- Can the Scottish Government say when it will respond to Scottish Women's Aid's evaluation of the Fund to Leave Pilot?
- Can the Scottish Government provide a timescale regarding implementation of Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021?
- The Committee would also like an update on discussions between the Scottish Government and UK Government on split payments for Universal Credit.

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.

It would be appreciated if you could please respond by **Wednesday 4 June 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee