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## STATEMENT ON THE LOCATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY

You will be aware that I made a statement to Parliament in April on the model for the social security agency, and undertook to make an announcement on the location of the agency that will oversee the delivery of benefits in Scotland in the autumn of this year. The First Minister has today announced that the headquarters of the agency will be located in Dundee, with a second major site in Glasgow, and will be enhanced by a local presence across Scotland. I now intend to make a statement to Parliament at 14.20 on Tuesday 19 September, where I will set out more detail on agency configuration.

This decision is supported by robust analysis following the same multi-criteria approach as was taken for determining the most suitable social security delivery model. The decision spreads economic benefit and supports inclusive growth while ensuring the agency can recruit the significant operating capacity it will require. In tandem to my statement I will publish on the Scottish Government website the supporting locational analysis which outlines the evidence and process followed in making our decision. This can be accessed at:

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/>

I believe that this announcement marks another milestone in our work and allows us to advance with the more detailed design of the agency, its operations and the practicalities involved in delivering social security. In doing so we will continue to engage with our stakeholders, experts and volunteers from the Experience Panels to ensure that as the agency delivers our aim of a social security system that treats people with fairness, dignity and respect.

I look forward to discussing this work with you in due course.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeane Freeman', written in a cursive style.

**JEANE FREEMAN**