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Neil Gray MSP
Convenor
Social Justice and Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: SJSS.committee@Parliament.Scot

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Dear Convenor

CARER'S ALLOWANCE SUPPLEMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL – COMMITTEE EVIDENCE

Thank you for the Committee's questions following the Stage 1 evidence session on the Carer's Allowance Supplement (Scotland) Bill on 2 September 2021. I have outlined responses to the Committee's questions below.

Estimates of the people who are eligible for carers allowance but do not go on to apply for it

As set out in the Discussion Paper for Scottish Carer's Assistance¹, take-up of Carer's Allowance is difficult to measure accurately. The criteria mean it is challenging to work out the number of people who are eligible but do not apply. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) do not publish take-up rates for Carer's Allowance, so we do not have a baseline to compare any improvements in take-up of Scottish Carer's Assistance against.

Due to the later launch of the disability and carer benefits the focus has been on developing the methodologies to produce estimates of take-up for the low income benefits currently being delivered by Social Security Scotland. These will be included in the second Benefit Take-Up Strategy, due to be published by 21 October 2021.

¹ [Scottish Carer's Assistance: discussion paper - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Any independent evaluation that has taken place on benefit uptake, including that specifically relating to Carer's Allowance

There has not been an independent evaluation of benefit take-up. DWP has produced working papers including one about the challenges associated with estimating take up for Carer's Allowance. This was published in 2010.

Thank you again for your questions.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Strong
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