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Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

23 June 2021
Sent via email

Dear Convener,

I look forward to working with you and the new Committee over the new parliamentary session.

I am writing to you today because as part of our role supporting parliamentary scrutiny of legislation, we have [published an estimate](#) of the cost of the additional payment set out in the Carer's Allowance Supplement (Scotland) Bill which was introduced to parliament yesterday.

The Bill doubles the Carer's Allowance Supplement that is due to be paid in December from £231.40 to £432.80. We estimate that the payment will be made to 91,000 people already receiving Carer's Allowance and that the higher rate will cost an extra £21 million in 2021-22.

I would also like to draw your attention to the [papers](#) we published in late May. These were produced as part of our commitment to transparency and accessibility and set out how the Scottish Budget is funded, and how we produce our forecasts for the economy, devolved taxes and social security.

Based on a recommendation from the previous Finance and Constitution Committee, we will publish our next official forecasts of the Scottish economy, devolved tax revenues and social security spending on 26 August 2021. We will also provide an update on funding for the 2021-22 Scottish Budget and the near-final position of the 2020-21 Scottish Budget in an accompanying Fiscal Update publication.

We are happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. I look forward to meeting with you soon, and to giving evidence to the new Committee after the summer recess.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan".

Dame Susan Rice DBE
Chair, Scottish Fiscal Commission