



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Professor Graeme Roy
Chair
Scottish Fiscal Commission

Via email only

Email: SJSS.committee@parliament.scot

15 January, 2025

Dear Professor Roy

Child disability payments forecast

I am writing to you with a request for some information on child disability payments (CDP). This is an issue which was raised during the 2025-26 budget evidence session at the Committee meeting of Thursday, 9 January. The Official Report of that meeting can be accessed [here](#).

During the evidence session, there were questions about the increase to the budget allocation for child disability payments, which [as set out in the Scottish Government budget documents](#), are forecast to rise from £450 million (as at Autumn budget revision 2024-25) to £618 million in 2025-26.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice told the Committee that the budget increase is based on the assumptions that underlie the Scottish Fiscal Commission's forecast.

The Scottish Fiscal Commission December forecasts note that there is:

“a trend across the UK for more successful applications for child disability payments since 2020, but with larger increases in Scotland than in England and Wales.” [\(SFC, para 5.30\)](#)

The Committee is particularly interested in further detail about factors influencing this faster caseload growth in Scotland and its consequences for spending on CDP.

The Committee would appreciate it if you would please provide details of the reasons for the forecast increase in child disability payments. In particular, could you please explain and quantify the separate impacts of UK-wide trends in increasing caseload and the additional caseload resulting from Social Security Scotland's approach.

It would be appreciated if this information could be provided by Friday, 31 January.

Yours sincerely,

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

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee