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30 April 2025

Dear Ed,

The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025

Thank you for your scrutiny report of 5 February on the draft Social Security (Best Start Grants, Best Start Foods, Funeral Support Payment, Scottish Child Payment, Information-sharing, Winter Heating Payment and Pension Age Winter Heating Payment) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Commission for looking at the amending regulations, and for working collaboratively with my officials as questions arose. It is worth noting here that the name of the draft regulations has now changed to The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025, due to further additions to the legislation. They do not require further scrutiny, but more information is given in the attached Scottish Government response.

I welcome your observation that these regulations represent good legislative housekeeping by removing obsolete references in existing regulations, and your comments regarding wider Scottish Government actions to promote Universal Credit as the route to eligibility for the Five Family Payments and other Scottish Government benefits.

I am attaching a copy of the Scottish Government's response to the SCoSS recommendation which I am also sending to the Convenor of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee. I can confirm that it is my intention to lay the amendment regulations on 30 April.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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