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Bruce Crawford
Convener
Finance and Constitution Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Sent via email

19 September 2018

Dear Convener,

Please find attached our occasional paper setting out our intended approach to forecasting social security payments.

The Commission is currently developing forecasting models and processes to help fulfil our statutory remit to forecast the Scottish Government's social security payments. The approach taken varies by benefit and has moved on since our first forecasts in December 2017, and since our previous Approach to Forecasting paper published in September 2017.

The paper will be published on our website at 9.30 AM this morning (19 September). To coincide with this paper we are holding a public event on Tuesday 25 September to outline how we forecast the spending on each devolved benefit and seek views on what opportunities exist to improve our models. We are committed to openness and transparency in all of our work. By being transparent in our forecasting, we hope to engage users in our approach to help improve our forecasts.

We would be very happy to discuss this paper with the Committee if you would find that helpful.

Sincerely,

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

Susan Rice DBE