

Bob Doris MSP  
Convener  
Social Security Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

6 February 2020

*Sent via email*

Dear Convener,

The Scottish Fiscal Commission has now published its report [Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecasts – February 2020](#), to inform the Scottish Government's Budget published today.

As the Scottish Budget is growing in size and complexity, management of the budget through the course of each year will be increasingly important. April 2020 will see an additional £3 billion of social security payments devolved to Scotland which must be managed during the year. Spending will be determined by the number of eligible people who apply for support and the Scottish Government will have to fund this spending as it arises, even if it differs from the forecast used to set the Budget initially.

Our forecasts include the costs for two new forms of social security assistance being launched this year, Disability Assistance for Children and Young People and the Scottish Child Payment. There are some policy differences between Disability Assistance for Children and Young People and the UK Government Disability Living Allowance for Children benefit, which we forecast will lead to an increase in spending.

We are committed to being independent, transparent, accessible and open. Our forecasts are just one component of our report; we also discuss how the Scottish Budget is set and the effect of the devolution of tax and social security benefits. Alongside the main report, we have produced a one page graphic of key figures and a summary document. We also publish background information, including spreadsheets with data for all the report's tables and charts.

We look forward to discussing the report with you on 27 February.

Yours sincerely

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

Dame Susan Rice