

A solid orange right-angled triangle in the top-left corner of the page.

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

8 September 2020
Sent via email

Dear Convener,

The Scottish Fiscal Commission has now published its [Supplementary Costing: Scottish Child Payment](#). This publication sets out our forecasts of a new payment being launched by the Scottish Government, the Scottish Child Payment. Legislation to enact this payment has been introduced to the Scottish Parliament today, 8 September 2020. The Scottish Child Payment is equivalent to £10 per week for each child aged under six living in households that receive qualifying benefits such as Universal Credit. It will be rolled out to all eligible children aged under 16 in 2022-23.

We estimate that the Scottish Child Payment will cost £11 million in 2020-21, a £10 million reduction compared to our forecast earlier this year to accompany the Scottish Budget. The main reason for this reduction is that the start date has been delayed because of COVID-19.

In light of the impact of COVID-19, the Commission has changed its views of how many children may be eligible for support. We now expect 155,000 children aged under six to receive the Scottish Child Payment in the launch year (2020-21). Once it is fully rolled out to all children under 16, we expect between 325,000 and 360,000 children to receive the Scottish Child Payment. Our assessment that the impact of COVID-19 is likely to increase eligibility for the Scottish Child Payment also derives from our outlook for the Scottish economy, presented in our Fiscal Update publication last week.¹

We would be glad to answer any queries the Committee may have on our report.

Yours sincerely

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

Dame Susan Rice

¹ Scottish Fiscal Commission (2020) Fiscal Update – September 2020 ([link](#))