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

10 September 2020  
*Sent via email*

Dear Convener,

The Scottish Fiscal Commission and Scottish Government have agreed an updated version of the protocol which sets out their engagement relating to the forecasting and assessment process. Required by the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act, the production and publication of the protocol is intended to ensure there is transparency in the interactions between the Commission and Scottish Government. It therefore covers the interactions between the Commission and the Scottish Government both during the formal periods of engagement around fiscal events, and engagement outwith fiscal events.

The updated version of the protocol will be published on the Commission's website. Since the last version was agreed in November 2019 the protocol has been updated to reflect the experience of producing forecasts to accompany primary and secondary legislation. This sets out the arrangements for the publications of any reports on "fiscal factors". Fiscal factors are defined in the Scottish Fiscal Commission Act as: "anything which the Scottish Ministers use to ascertain the amount of resources likely to be available for the purposes of sections 1 to 3 of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000". These arrangements cover the two social security costings we have published in the last two weeks for Child Winter Heating Assistance and Scottish Child Payment. I have attached a copy of the protocol for your information.

Yours sincerely

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

Dame Susan Rice