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Social Justice and Social Security Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

23 June 2021
Sent via email

Dear Committee members,

I look forward to working with you over the new parliamentary session.

I am writing to you today because as part of our role supporting parliamentary scrutiny of legislation, we have [published an estimate](#) of the cost of the additional payment set out in the Carer's Allowance Supplement (Scotland) Bill which was introduced to parliament yesterday.

The Bill doubles the Carer's Allowance Supplement that is due to be paid in December from £231.40 to £432.80. We estimate that the payment will be made to 91,000 people already receiving Carer's Allowance and that the higher rate will cost an extra £21 million in 2021-22.

I would also like to draw your attention to the [paper](#) we published in late May, setting out how we approach the forecasting of disability and carer's payments. This was part of a set of papers we released as part of our commitment to transparency and accessibility.

The Commission's official social security forecasts will continue to grow in importance, with social security now accounting for over £3.5 billion of spending in the Scottish Budget, and new Scottish disability payments due to launch in the coming year. Following a recommendation from the previous Finance and Constitution Committee, we will publish our next forecasts on 26 August, including our first estimate of spending on the new Adult Disability Payment.

We are happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. I look forward to meeting with you all soon, and to giving evidence after the summer recess.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dame Susan Rice DBE
Chair, Scottish Fiscal Commission