A solid orange right-angled triangle pointing downwards and to the right, located in the top left corner of the page.

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

29 August 2023

Dear Convener

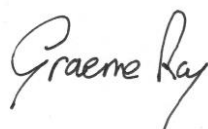
Today we have published our [Forecast Evaluation Report](#).

In this document we have evaluated our December 2021 forecast of social security payments used to set the 2022-23 Scottish Budget.

Spending on devolved social security payments in 2022-23 was £4,193 million, £127 million or 3 per cent higher than forecast when the Budget was set. Spending on the main disability payments was £116 million higher than our forecast as a result of a UK-wide increase in people receiving payments. We estimate that policy decisions announced by the Scottish Government after the Budget led to an increase in spending of around £40 million.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have on our Forecast Evaluation Report and look forward to giving evidence to the Committee after we publish our next set of forecasts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme Roy".

Professor Graeme Roy