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@SocSecScot

Social Security Scotland

3 November 2020

Dear Chief Executive

### **Scottish Child Payment**

Thank you for your continued support as we build Social Security Scotland. I am pleased to tell you that from 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 we will start taking applications for our newest benefit, Scottish Child Payment.

Scottish Child Payment will be the biggest benefit that we have introduced to date. Initially, it will be available for those children under 6 years old with 194,000 children expected to be eligible in the first year. Given the scale of demand, we are taking applications now so that we can make sure that we have all the information we need to make payments as soon as possible after the benefit officially starts on Monday 15 February 2021.

As you well know, this is being introduced in the midst of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Getting money to people will be hugely important in helping hard hit families to financially recover from this. However, the pandemic continues to have an impact on the way we are operating and the way in which we deliver services. This is a further factor in taking these applications as early as possible.

Families who meet the criteria and are eligible to apply will receive a payment of £10 per child, per week (equivalent to £520 per year) and payment will be made on a four-weekly basis. There are no limits to the number of children per family who can receive this benefit.

We are acutely aware of the economic impact the pandemic has had on the people of Scotland, and so to help support as many children and low income families as possible we want to make sure the take-up of Scottish Child Payment is fully maximised.

**Dignity, fairness, respect.**

We would therefore appreciate any support you can offer to help us raise awareness and signpost anyone you feel may benefit from this payment towards Social Security Scotland.

We're also pleased to inform you that from Monday 9 November we'll be returning to our full telephone opening hours of 8am to 6pm. We're expecting that Scottish Child Payment will generate a lot of interest in our service and this will help us to keep our call waiting times to as low a level as we can.

To support this we have produced a range of materials and communication products, including posters and social media graphics, specific to Scottish Child Payment. These can be found on our website at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/resources> . Your employees are also able to order hard copies of materials should this be a requirement.

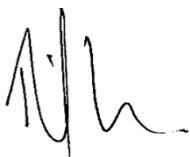
We would be grateful if you could cascade this information to areas within your organisation who may have an interest.

We will continue to communicate our message through our social media channels [@SocSecScot](#) on Twitter and [Social Security Scotland](#) on Facebook, and would appreciate if your organisation was able to share these posts through your existing communication channels.

Our Local Delivery Relationship Leads are always available and happy to help provide more information on the Scottish Child Payment and all of Social Security Scotland's services. Their contact details are held at [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads).

Thank you again for all of your support in promoting our benefits to date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Wallace', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Wallace  
Chief Executive  
**Social Security Scotland**

## What is Scottish Child payment?

Families who meet the criteria and are eligible to apply will receive a payment of £10 per child, per week (equivalent to £520 per year) and payment will be made on a four-weekly basis. There are no limits to the number of children per family who can receive this benefit.

In order to be eligible for Scottish Child Payment the following criteria must be met;

- live in Scotland
- have responsibility for a child/children under the age of 6 and be named on one of the following benefits, Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit
- Be in receipt of any of the following benefits:
  - Universal Credit,
  - Income Support,
  - Pension Credit,
  - Child Tax Credit,
  - Working Tax Credit,
  - Income-based Job Seekers Allowance or
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

If you are a kinship carer and the child is not named on one of the above you can demonstrate child responsibility through either a legal order or a letter of support from a local authority.

People will be able to apply online at [www.mygov.scot/benefits/](http://www.mygov.scot/benefits/) or through our Freephone helpline at 0800 182 2222. Our helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm. A paper application will also be available and can be requested via our helpline or downloaded direct from our website.

- Online: [www.mygov.scot/benefits/](http://www.mygov.scot/benefits/)
- Website: [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources)
- Twitter: [@SocSecScot](https://twitter.com/SocSecScot)
- Facebook: [Social Security Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/SocialSecurityScotland)
- Local Delivery Relationship Leads: [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads)