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Dear Sandra

Thank you once again for the Committee's helpful Stage 2 scrutiny of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill.

Given the Committee's focus on these issues, I wanted to inform you that the First Minister will be making an announcement later today to launch our Poverty and Inequality Commission. As you are aware, this is in pursuance of our manifesto commitment, and we are keen to move quickly so that our Commission can advise us on the first Delivery Plan under the Bill. Such advice would not be possible via any statutory arrangements because of time constraints, as I set out in my contributions at Committee during Stage 2.

The Commission will be in place for an initial two year period, in advance of any statutory arrangements that may be put in place via the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill. I trust that the Committee will want to engage with the Commission as soon as practicable on the range of issues raised by the Bill.

I will, of course, be engaging with the Committee prior to Stage 3 on how best we can deliver the twin goals of statutory oversight on child poverty and a Commission with a wide remit.

Please note that the Scottish Government's announcement on the Commission is embargoed until 10am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Yours sincerely

**ANGELA CONSTANCE**