



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**The Presiding Officer**  
**Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP**

Sandra White MSP  
Convener  
Social Security Committee  
M5.07  
The Scottish Parliament  
EH99 1SP

8 September 2017

Dear Sandra

### **CHILD POVERTY (SCOTLAND) BILL – FINANCIAL RESOLUTION**

As you may know, I am required under Rule 9.12.6C, for the purposes of Rules 9.12.6 to 6B, to determine whether an amendment makes provision which, if it were agreed to, would cause, or might contribute to causing, a Bill to require a financial resolution which it would not otherwise require. A financial resolution is required where the likely costs associated with a Bill are expected to be at least £400,000 in any one financial year.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill as introduced did not require a financial resolution. The Financial Memorandum estimated that the likely costs in any one financial year associated with the Bill as introduced were approximately £277,000.

Amendments lodged for Stage 2 therefore had to be considered in terms of whether they fell within the terms of Rule 9.12.6.

In advance of your Committee's Stage 2 consideration of the Bill, I considered amendments 15, 15A, 20, 30 and 47, all of which made provision in relation to the establishment of a Poverty and Inequality Commission and its functions in connection with ensuring that the child poverty targets are met. I determined that none of those amendments, either on its own or cumulatively, would cause the Bill to require a financial resolution – i.e. they would not bring the likely costs associated with the Bill above £400,000 in any one financial year.

Subsequently, at its meetings on 22 and 29 June 2017, the Committee agreed to all of the above amendments. I have, therefore, now considered the cost that should be attributed to those amendments.

I have taken into account the substantial uncertainties that exist about the costs that may arise in relation to the Commission. I have followed the principle set out in the *Guidance on Public Bills* that, in such circumstances, I should err on the side of caution. I have determined that an appropriate estimate is that the maximum likely costs in any one financial year of the Commission now provided for in the Bill would be in the region of £135,000.

When considered alongside the financial implications of the Bill as introduced, this means that the estimated costs associated with the Bill are now £362,000. This is the baseline figure that will be used for consideration of whether any cost-bearing amendments at Stage 3 would cause the Bill to require a financial resolution.

Copies of this letter go to Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Constitution, and Joe FitzPatrick, Minister for Parliamentary Business.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Macintosh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP  
**Presiding Officer**