



T: 0300 244 4000

E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Sandra White  
Convener  
Social Security Committee

[SocialSecurityCommittee@parliament.scot](mailto:SocialSecurityCommittee@parliament.scot)

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*Dear Convener,*

I wanted to provide an update to the Committee on the work that is progressing to develop the first child poverty delivery plan, due next April, as outlined in the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill. The delivery plans will be, in my view, absolutely crucial if we are to meet the level of ambition and targets set out in the Bill.

As you know, the Poverty and Inequality Commission will be key to the development of this work. I have written to Douglas Hamilton, the Chair of the Commission, asking the Commission to provide me with advice on where the Scottish Government can most usefully focus our efforts in the period to 2030, including providing initial thoughts on the Tackling Child Poverty Fund that was announced as part of the Programme for Government. Engagement with other relevant stakeholders on the delivery plan is also underway and there is broad and strong support for the Commission playing this crucial role.

I wanted to also inform the Committee, following Stage 2 comments from members about the need for high quality data analysis to underpin our work, that I have commissioned child poverty projections for the first delivery plan. The work will be undertaken by Landman Economics, an economic research consultancy established in 2008 by Howard Reed, previously chief economist at the Institute for Public Policy Research, and an economist with over two decades of research experience in empirical economics. These projections will be tailored for Scotland and will help us understand the likely impacts of recent tax and security changes on child poverty, for each of the four targets. The Scottish Government will publish these projections as soon as they are ready, with copies sent to the Committee. I also want to let the Committee know that I plan to re-commission these projections in advance of each delivery plan.

I trust that this information is helpful to Committee. I will be writing to you again shortly, ahead of the lodging deadline for Stage 3 of the Bill, to update Committee members on the background to the amendments I intend to lodge, including our proposals for ensuring the broad remit of the statutory Commission.

*Kendrick Rejzack*

*Angela*

**ANGELA CONSTANCE**