



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Jeremy Balfour**  
**Member of the Scottish Parliament for Lothian**

Collette Stevenson MSP  
Convener  
Social Justice and Social Security Committee

By email: [sjss.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:sjss.committee@parliament.scot)

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Dear Convener

Re: Funeral Support Payments

I am writing to you in my capacity as Convener of the CPG on Funerals and Bereavement to express the groups concern at the current figures released by Social Security Scotland for Funeral Support Payments. The latest figures, published on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023, document the processing times increasing from a median of 29 days in 2022/23 financial year to a current median average processing time of 39 days for March 2023.

I ask that the SJSS Committee look into this issue at our earliest convenience and write to Social Security Scotland to determine the cause of these delays and what procedures they are putting in place to reduce these processing times.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Jeremy Balfour MSP**  
**Lothian Region**