



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Jane O'Donnell
Chief Executive
COSLA

Via email only

Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email: SJSS.committee@parliament.scot

28 March 2023

Dear Ms O'Donnell,

Extra cost of disability

As part of its scrutiny work on disability benefits, the Social Justice and Social Security Committee was keen to have Scottish specific information on the additional costs of disability.

In 2023, the Committee commissioned research on this issue. The research was conducted by the University of Strathclyde and the Poverty Alliance. The report is available [here](#).

At its meeting on [21 March 2024](#), the Committee discussed the findings of the research with its authors.

Members agreed there are many different needs and variations in disability and the research highlighted gaps in data available to achieve a suitable and effective evidence base.

The research also highlighted that access to services such as social care impacts on the degree to which disabled people face extra costs that must be funded from their disability benefits.

In order to better inform its scrutiny of the extra cost of disability, the Committee would therefore be interested to know:

- What data does COSLA currently collect on unmet needs in social care of disabled people?
- What data gaps does COSLA recognise exist to adequately inform the extra cost of disability and improvements needed to address the issue?
- More broadly, is COSLA currently undertaking or planning to undertake research on unmet needs and the extra cost of disability?

A response by 2 May would assist the Committee with its scrutiny work.

Correspondence on data gaps and evidence base for the extra cost of disability has been sent to the Scottish Government and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Yours sincerely,



Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee