



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Rt Hon Mel Stride Secretary of State  
for Work and Pensions

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

Via email only

Email: [SJSS.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SJSS.committee@parliament.scot)

28 March 2023

Dear Lord Stride,

### **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. They 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.

In order to better inform its scrutiny of the extra cost of disability, the Committee would appreciate further information on data and evidence base:

- What is the UK Government doing to improve the evidence base on the extra cost of disability to inform current and future benefits policies?

- What data does the UK Government currently collect and hold to achieve an effective evidence base and how is data collected?
- What data gaps does the UK Government recognise exist to adequately inform the extra cost of disability and improvements needed to address the issue?
- Has the UK Government taken a collegiate approach with other bodies such as the Scottish Government to address data gaps?

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

Similar correspondence has been sent to the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

Yours sincerely,



**Collette Stevenson MSP**  
**Convener**  
**Social Justice and Social Security Committee**