



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
UK Government

11 October 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Scotland Office budget

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Scotland. I hope we will have a close working relationship as we seek to scrutinise the reduction of poverty in Scotland and the relationship that the Scottish Government has with the UK Government in delivering on its national mission to eradicate child poverty.

The Committee understands that there is a commitment to change the Scotland Office into a spending department in Scotland. We are aware that there has been some media speculation both on the level of funding and the focus of the funding, for example, on tackling poverty.

Given the broad remit of the Committee covering social justice issues it would be helpful to know the amount of money that will be at your disposal, and how you envisage your Department will work with the Scottish Government to tackle common goals, such as, reducing poverty, so that the Committee can consider how these aspects might be incorporated into our work.

It would be helpful to have a response by 10 November 2024. A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, The Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Contact: Social Justice and Social Security Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email SJSS.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.