

Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People  
Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP



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Councillor Susan Aitken  
Leader of the Council  
Glasgow City Council

Sent by email to:  
[susan.aitken@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:susan.aitken@glasgow.gov.uk)

Your ref: SA/PS/0423/CABS  
Our ref: 2019/0012362  
09 May 2019

Dear Susan,

Thank you for your letter of 23 April outlining your support of the Scottish Government's ambition to eradicate child poverty and to work towards introducing a new income supplement to support families in Scotland.

Alongside national action, local responses form a key part of the strategy to tackle and eradicate child poverty. Each local area faces a unique set of challenges and it is very welcome to see the efforts you are taking to respond to this. I look forward to seeing your finalised Local Child Poverty Action Report when this is published in the coming months, including future action you have planned.

Our work to develop a new income supplement is a significant undertaking, and shows the scale of our ambition – but designing and delivering a new benefit is a complex task. We are carrying out a formal appraisal of potential options for the income supplement – to determine the potential costs and impact on child poverty – including the delivery feasibility of those – to determine the technical and operational requirements, and potential timescales. That approach ensures we can fully and properly consider the potential risks and benefits of all approaches. It is right that we take our time to do that properly, and not pre-empt the outcome of that process.

Such an approach will ensure we deliver an income supplement that meets our two key tests - reaching the greatest number of children in poverty, and topping up incomes sufficiently to lift those households out of poverty – and give full and proper consideration to the advice of the Poverty and Inequality Commission. This is a significant piece of work – but I can assure you it is happening at pace.

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By the end of June we will publish the first annual progress report against all the actions contained in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan. This will be accompanied by our analysis of policy and delivery options in relation to the income supplement, and set out the next steps towards delivery.

At this stage the Scottish Government will be able to offer greater clarity on the option to be progressed and the timescale for delivery.

Yours sincerely,

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**

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