

Chair of the Poverty and Inequality
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Children and Young People's Commissioner
Scotland
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Shona Robison
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice,
Housing and Local Government

By email

13 July 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Congratulations on your appointment as Cabinet Secretary, both Commissions look forward to working with you over the coming Parliamentary Term.

As you may be aware “A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People”¹, the delivery plan for rights contained in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities contained a number of commitments relating to disabled children and young people. A number of these commitments have already been delivered and others are being progressed.

We are writing to you about “Action” 59 - *“We will increase Carer’s Allowance for those looking after more than one disabled child.....”*. This is an important element of ensuring children’s right to benefit from social security is met, and will have a significant impact on the realisation of the right to an adequate standard of living.

We are aware that Social Security Directorate were working on policy proposals that would implement this action but that the work was halted during lockdown as priorities changed and staff resources were allocated elsewhere.

This delay in implementation was regrettable but understandable in the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic. However, the pandemic has also exposed and deepened the huge inequalities in Scottish society and underlined how much we rely on unpaid, and largely unrewarded, carers.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-disabled-people-delivery-plan-2021-united-nations-convention/pages/3/>

We believe that the carers of disabled children need and deserve more support. Therefore could you please provide us with an update on when the work to implement Action 59 will recommence and an estimate of when carers of two or more disabled children can expect to receive additional support? We look forward to your reply and would be happy to meet with you to discuss this and other issues related to disabled children's rights and child poverty.

Yours Sincerely,



Bill Scott
Chair of Poverty and Inequality
Commission



Bruce Adamson
Children and Young People's
Commissioner Scotland