



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ministerial
Correspondence
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA

0207 340 4000

www.gov.uk

ministers@dwp.gov.uk

Natalie Don MSP
Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
sjss.committee@parliament.scot

23 January 2023

Dear Natalie,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Convener of the Scottish Social Justice and Social Security Committee. The devolution framework sits within my area of responsibility, and I recognise the importance of the committee in Scotland.

I would like to thank the committee for drawing attention to the recent report “Robbing Peter to Pay Paul: Low income and the debt trap” in the letter it sent to the previous Secretary of State.

I read the report with interest and take note of the recommendations, which touch on the reserved responsibilities of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), with respect to the design and operation of Universal Credit.

These are, of course, important matters, but you will be aware that DWP Ministers are answerable on them to the UK Parliament. I can assure you that the DWP works closely with the Scottish Government to seek the best outcomes for people in Scotland where there are interactions between reserved and devolved provision. This includes the delivery of UC Scottish Choices, interactions between Jobcentre Plus and Fair Start Scotland, and the relationship between devolved benefits such as Adult Disability Payment and the reserved benefit system.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work