

# **Scottish Child Payment**

## **Submission by:**

**Kate Andersen (Research Associate, University of York)**

**Ruth Patrick (Professor of Social Policy, University of York)**

**Kitty Stewart (Associate Professor, London School of Economics)**

**Emma Tominey (Professor of Economics, University of York)**

6. Any other comments?

Linked administrative data is essential to fully analyse and quantify the effects of the Scottish Child Payment. We stress the urgent need to advance these linkages, so that social security data is linked to other administrative data sources, including but not limited to HMRC, education, health if we are to understand where the policy improves the livelihoods of families with children and any potential improvements needed to enhance the policy.

Survey datasets often used in the UK to analyse policy tend to have a very small sample of Scottish households on low income and make it difficult to uncover robust, reliable results. Our understanding is that the Scottish administrative datasets are not currently linked to social security records and make it hard or impossible to measure eligibility for Scottish Child Payment.