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Thank you for your scrutiny report of 30 October 2023 on the Disability Assistance for Older People (Scotland) Regulations 2024. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Commission for considering these Regulations, particularly in light of the significant volume of work that has been undertaken by the Commission in challenging timescales.

I am pleased to confirm that I have accepted the majority of your very helpful recommendations. The analysis undertaken by SCoSS has been immensely valuable in ensuring that PADP delivers for disabled people in Scotland. I am confident that changes we have made in response to SCoSS' recommendations demonstrate that we are listening and that our decisions are informed by evidence of what is right for disabled people in Scotland.

Please find attached my detailed response to your recommendations set out in the accompanying annex. The response also details further changes that have been made to the draft regulations in relation to legal detention and residence rules for refugees. I have also written to the Convener of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee.

I will also be writing to you about a technical amendment to the regulations, as well as amendments to make equivalent changes for Child Disability Payment and Adult Disability Payment, for your consideration. I am very thankful for your flexibility in agreeing to review them through an expedited process.

I remain grateful to Members for the way in which they have engaged so constructively with the Scottish Government. Thank you again for your co-operation and continued significant contribution to shaping Disability Assistance in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY ANNE-SOMERVILLE