

Scottish Government Response to SCoSS Scrutiny Report on Technical Amendments to the Short-Term Assistance (STA) Provisions in the Disability Assistance for Older People (Scotland) Regulations (2024)

Responses to Recommendations and Observations

SCoSS Recommendation	Scottish Government Response	Accept/ Partially accept/ Reject
<p>Recommendation 1: We recommend that The Decision Making Guide covers more scenarios on the value of STA, both common and less common.</p>	<p>As part of our commitment to continuous improvement and transparency regarding decision-making, we accept this recommendation to review and update decision making guidance which pertains to STA.</p> <p>To reflect learning from the live service, we plan to carry out a review of the relevant decision making guides and will also assess whether further updates are required for public facing communications regarding STA as well client letters. This work will seek to clarify the wider understanding of STA as well as reflecting common and uncommon scenarios.</p>	<p>Accept</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: In response to previous SCoSS recommendations, the Scottish Government has described its commitment to monitoring behavioural impacts of STA, unintended consequences and the extent to which STA allows people to overcome barriers to challenging decisions. We recommend that in doing so, the Scottish Government should have regard to any differing impacts on particular communities or people with</p>	<p>We accept that there is a need to actively monitor STA and its impact for clients. As STA is a new and unique form of financial support that is only available in Scotland, we are continuing to learn from the live service and there are challenges in gathering high quality data due to STA's relative newness as a form of temporary assistance. As we gather more robust data, we will look to make this available.</p> <p>Social Security Scotland has recently developed surveys for clients who have experienced the re-determinations and appeals processes, and these surveys include questions about people's knowledge, perceptions and experience of STA. We intend to publish feedback and insights gathered from these surveys.</p>	<p>Accept</p>

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protected characteristics, with a view to identifying if any mitigation is needed. We note that the collection of Social Security Scotland published statistics does not currently include STA and recommend that STA data is published.		
Correction: We point out a drafting correction is needed to the sequential numbering of Parts in the Schedule, which has 'Part 3' twice.	This has been resolved as part of our internal checking process.	