

SCoSS Recommendation	Accept / Partially Accept / Decline / Noted	Scottish Government Response
<p>Recommendation: We recommend that the Scottish Government identifies more ways to offer holistic information to people about financial support, including benefits like Universal Credit that people need to claim to access Scottish benefits.</p>	<p>Partially accept.</p>	<p>As you are aware, Universal Credit is fully reserved to the UK Government. This includes actions related to its promotion and take-up. However, the Scottish Government does recognise that we have a role to play, given Universal Credit's increasing relevance to establishing eligibility for Scottish Government benefits.</p> <p>This is why the Scottish Government currently invests over £12 million to support the delivery of debt, welfare and income maximisation advice services in 2024-25, including support for a range of organisations such as Citizens Advice Scotland, CPAG, One Parent Families Scotland and Advice Direct Scotland. This channels our support to the organisations who are best placed to offer personally tailored expert advice for individual clients, to ensure that Scottish households are supported to access the benefits they are entitled to, challenge benefit decisions and maximise their incomes.</p> <p>This is also why our award letters for disability benefits, for example, signpost clients to benefit calculators and advice agencies such as Citizens Advice Scotland to encourage them to explore all other available benefits, both reserved and devolved.</p> <p>Social Security Scotland uses its communications channels to raise awareness of reserved benefits, specifically where they are qualifying benefit for a devolved payment. Through discussion with clients, operational staff – including those in</p>

		<p>local delivery - will signpost clients to other benefits and wider support that they may be entitled to, including DWP benefits.</p> <p>However, it is important that all of this is done in a way that makes it clear that responsibility for delivering these benefits sits with the DWP as this could otherwise create confusion amongst eligible people and the stakeholders that support them, causing unnecessary delays and operational pressures.</p>
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Additional changes to the draft regulations

Further change	Notes
The name of the draft SSI has changed to: The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025	<p>This reflects the fact that the SSI now contains further amendments related to information-sharing regulations and Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, which we advised SCoSS of on 17 January 2025.</p> <p>It also now contains further amendments to Scottish Child Payment, Carers Allowance Supplement and Young Carer's Grant - see further below.</p>
Inclusion of further amendments to Scottish Child Payment Regulations 2020 and the Carer's Allowance Supplement and Young Carer Grants (Residence Requirements and Procedural Provisions) (EU Exit) (Scotland) Regulations 2020	<p>These amendments are in relation to appeals on Scottish Child Payment, and Carer's Allowance Supplement where individuals are seeking to receive this support from outside of the UK.</p> <p>These amendments ensure that appeals processes are consistent across all benefits, by aligning with provisions in the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018, as amended by the Social Security (Amendment)(Scotland) Act 2025.</p>