Scottish Commission on Social Security
c/o Secretariat
Area 1C South (Mail Point 6)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

info@socialsecuritycommission.scot

Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and Housing
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

2 November 2026

By email only

Dear Cabinet Secretary

The draft Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2027

Thank you for referring provisions proposed for inclusion in the draft Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2027. This letter is the Scottish Commission on Social Security's report on those provisions.

SCoSS has scrutinised the proposed amendments and, as part of its consideration, invited any comments from its independent expert panel. We consider that the amendment to the Winter Heating Assistance (Pension Age) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 would clarify the entitlement conditions and achieve the stated policy intention.

We have no substantive concern about the amendment, however, we note the added level of complexity this adds to an already complex set of entitlements and the potential for confusion among people who will be affected. While it may not be feasible to contact every affected individual directly, the Scottish Government should consider how the impact of the change can be communicated clearly and in plain English.

SCoSS also agrees that the amendment to regulation 16(1) of the Social Security (Cross-border Provision, Case Transfer and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 corrects a typographical error.

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We hope that this report is helpful and welcome your response.

Yours sincerely



Ed Pybus
Chair
Scottish Commission on Social Security

Copy: Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committee