



Social Security Scotland
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Social Security Scotland

14 November 2022

Dear Chief Executive

Changes to Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grant

I am writing to let you know that the Scottish Child Payment will be expanded to 6 to 15-year-olds from 14 November 2022 and at the same time the payment will also be increased to £25 per child per week. Families can start to apply for the benefit from 14 November.

In addition, from the 28 November, we will award Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and School Age Payment automatically to eligible families in receipt of Scottish Child Payment, without the need to apply. This means if a client is in receipt of Scottish Child Payment, they will receive these payments automatically once they become eligible for them.

There are also some important upcoming changes to the rules for Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment. From 14 November there will be new exceptions to the general rule that an individual is only entitled to the higher Pregnancy and Baby Payment in respect of their first child. This will provide greater support for families who are more likely to be starting from scratch without the items that the Pregnancy and Baby payment is intended to provide for. Further details can be found at <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/how-to-apply>.

I would be grateful if you would support communication of these significant changes and consider providing details to your welfare rights and income maximisation services to help us raise awareness; signposting anyone you feel may benefit from these payments towards Social Security Scotland.

To support this, we have produced a range of materials and communication products, including posters and social media graphics, specific to Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Grant. These can be found on our website at

Dignity, fairness, respect.

<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/guidance-resources/resources> Your employees are also able to order hard copies of materials should this be a requirement.

We will continue to communicate our message through our social media channels [@SocSecScot](#) on Twitter and [Social Security Scotland](#) on Facebook, and would appreciate if your organisation was able to share these posts through your existing communication channels.

Our Local Delivery Relationship Leads are happy to help provide more information on the Scottish Child Payment and other Social Security Scotland's services. Their contact details are held at [Social Security Scotland - Local Delivery Relationship Leads](#).

Thank you again for all your support in promoting our benefits, especially given the challenge facing families as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DW', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Wallace
Chief Executive
Social Security Scotland

What is Scottish Child payment?

From 14 November:

Families who meet the criteria and are eligible to apply will receive a payment of £25 per child, per week (equivalent to more than £1000 per year) and payment will be made on a four-weekly basis. There are no limits to the number of children per family who can receive this benefit.

In order to be eligible for Scottish Child Payment the following criteria must be met:

- live in Scotland
- have responsibility for a child/child under the age of 16 and be named on one of the following benefits, Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Benefit
- Be in receipt of any of the following benefits:
 - Universal Credit,
 - Income Support,
 - Pension Credit,
 - Child Tax Credit,
 - Working Tax Credit,
 - Income-based Job Seekers Allowance or
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

If you are a kinship carer and the child is not named on one of the above, you can demonstrate child responsibility through either a legal order or a letter of support from a local authority.

People will be able to apply online at www.mygov.scot/benefits/ or through our Freephone helpline at **0800 182 2222**. Our helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. A paper application will also be available and can be requested via our helpline or downloaded direct from our website.

- Online: www.mygov.scot/benefits/
- Website: www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder-resources
- Twitter: [@SocSecScot](https://twitter.com/SocSecScot)
- Facebook: [Social Security Scotland](https://www.facebook.com/SocialSecurityScotland)
- Local Delivery Relationship Leads: www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/local-delivery/local-delivery-relationship-leads