



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Pete Wishart MP
Chair
Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

wishartp@parliament.uk

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Dear Pete,

I am delighted to inform you that we will shortly begin delivering Job Start Payment using the powers transferred through the Scotland Act 1998 (Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2020. We aim to launch this latest Scottish benefit on 17 August.

As you will be aware, the Order was approved by the Scottish Parliament on 4 December 2019 and by the Privy Council on 11 March 2020. Because the powers that will be used to deliver Job Start Payment are provided by the Employment and Training Act 1973 rather than the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018, it will be delivered administratively by Social Security Scotland and not through regulations.

To deliver this new benefit which will target support to around 5,000 young people each year, we are investing approximately £2 million annually. The Committee may also wish to be aware that my officials have made good progress in working with the Department for Work and Pensions on raising awareness of Job Start Payment. DWP have now agreed to signpost young clients who may meet the eligibility criteria to Social Security Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

