



In response to the publication of the Social Security Bill (Scotland) today (Wednesday 21st June 2017), please find below a comment from Disability Agenda Scotland (DAS). Please do not hesitate to contact DAS if you have any queries or would like to discuss.

Layla Theiner, Disability Agenda Scotland (DAS) said: “We welcome the publication of the Social Security Bill by the Scottish Government today. We believe the Scottish Government should seize the opportunity presented by the devolution of parts of the social security system to design and deliver a system that empowers disabled people and recognises everyone’s contribution and value to society. In recent years, cuts to benefits and other services have disproportionately affected disabled people. DAS will be taking a close look at the detail as the Scottish Social Security System is developed, but this is a real chance to make improvements for thousands of people’s lives in Scotland.

“Disability benefits account for the majority budget being devolved under these powers. There have been particular problems for a large number of people applying for PIP (Personal Independence Payments). DAS is keen to see improvements made to the PIP application and assessment process as soon as possible, by the Westminster and Scottish Governments. We would welcome changes made in line with the principles outlined by the Scottish Government. When we have spoken to people, it has been clear change needs to be done in a well-managed way, taking the time to get things right. The system is complex and there will therefore need to be ongoing coordination with Westminster and reserved powers and benefits”.

June 2017

