



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES

Room 430
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
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19 March 2025
Our ref: CC/25/105

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chairperson
Equality and Social Justice Committee
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Dear Chairperson

Proposed UK Welfare Reforms – Potential Joint Devolved Committee Response

At its meeting on 13 March 2025, the Committee for Communities of the Northern Ireland Assembly noted with concern recent media reports regarding the UK Government's intention to reform the welfare system, particularly in relation to disability benefits, such as Personal Independence Payment and the "health top-up" element of Universal Credit.

As you will be aware, since that date there have been further announcements by the UK Secretary for Work and Pensions, The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP.

At our recent meeting, Members agreed to write to our nearest equivalent Committees in the Scottish Parliament and Senedd Cymru to:

- Ask whether your Committee has had discussions on this issue.
- Seek information on what action your Committee is considering in response.
- Gather your Committee's views on the potential impact of these cuts.
- Explore the possibility of coordinating a joint letter from all three devolved Committees to the UK Government outlining our collective concerns.

The Committee would greatly value your views and would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on this matter.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Colm Gildernew MLA

Chairperson of the Committee for Communities