

**Executive Advisory Body - Attendance**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	Tuesday, 29 April 2025, 10:00 – 12:30, by Hybrid (Dundee, Ground Floor Conference Room) / Microsoft Teams	
<b>Members</b>	Non-Executive Member Chief Executive Programme Director, Social Security Deputy Director, Disability Operations Chief Digital Information Officer Deputy Director, Finance and Corporate Services Deputy Director, Organisational Strategy and Performance Chief Medical Advisor Non-Executive Member Non-Executive Member Non-Executive Member Non-Executive Member	Chair - Chris Creegan (CC) David Wallace (DW) Leanne Carson (LC) Gayle Devlin (GD) Andy McClintock (AMC) Stephanie Devenny (SD) Ally MacPhail (AMP) Paul Knight (PK) Gill Mudie (GM) Naghat Ahmed (NA) Russell Frith (RF) Barry Matheson (BM)
<b>Apologies</b>	Chief Operating Officer Deputy Direction, Low Income Benefits and Operational Improvement Deputy Director, Strategy, Learning, Corporate Management & Finance (Social Security Programme) Non-Executive Member Non-Executive Member	Miriam Craven (MC) Karyn Dunning (KD) Jo Gray (JG) Deborah Rodger (DR) Laura Brennan-Whitefield (LBW)
<b>Presenters</b>	Senior Financial Planning Manager Head of Briefing and Engagement	EC DH

	Parliamentary Team Leader External – Ipsos Mori Platform Delivery Manager Platform Delivery Manager	CG HM ND PR
<b>Observer</b>	Project Lead, Disability and Carer's Team	SP
<b>Secretariat</b>	Governance Governance Governance	FD AM DP

### Executive Advisory Body - Discussion

Item	Subject	Main points of discussion
1.	<b>Welcome and Conflicts of Interest</b>	<p>1.1. The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and noted the apologies as listed above.</p> <p>1.2. No potential conflicts of interest were noted, and minutes from 18 March 2025 were endorsed.</p>
2.	<b>Chief Executive Update</b>	<p>2.1. The Chief Executive provided updates on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management: Ensuring visibility in Director General family.</li> <li>• Social Security Programme Closure: Session with Scottish Government Executive Team on post-programme capacity, capability and staff moves.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit Scotland: Meeting with the advisory group on 05 May 2025 to discuss emerging findings from the review.</li> <li>• Independent Adult Disability Payment Review: Interim report findings have been accepted by the Cabinet Secretary. Edel Harris, author of the Independent Adult Disability Payment review continues work on her final report.</li> <li>• Scottish Commission on Social Security: Report on People with communication needs and the Scottish social security system: fulfilling the expectations of 'Our Charter' has been published; work underway on findings.</li> <li>• Ed Pybus chair of the Scottish Commission on Social Security has been invited to attend a future Executive Advisory Body.</li> <li>• Programme for Government: The First Minister has announced it has been brought forward to May 2025 from September 2025 to set out the key objectives for the year ahead.</li> <li>• Fiscal Forecasts: Published by Scottish Fiscal Commission.</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Performance Update</b>	<p>3.1. Members were presented with the latest performance update with the following key points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates relating to ongoing activity to support recruitment with partnership working including; local job centres and universities.</li> <li>• Communications plan for next quarter to be shared below the line at next meeting.</li> <li>• Engagement activity has been refocussed with the restructuring of existing teams to establish the Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Team and Partnership and Events Team.</li> <li>• Future stakeholder engagement planned with voluntary organisations one of which is Cemvo Scotland.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members discussed the successful national launch of Pension Age Disability Payment on 22 April 2025.</li> <li>Members also discussed scheduling a regular rhythm of review of progress against the 5 strategic objectives in the business plan, at the next Executive Advisory Body on 17 June 2025.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Finance Budget Allocation 2025-26</b>	<p>4.1. SD presented the Finance Budget Allocation 2025-26 update with the following key points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance colleagues continue to work closely with Social Security Programme for joint business and financial planning.</li> <li>Budget allocations have been approved in line with the 2025-26 business plan priorities.</li> </ul> <p>4.2. Members discussed the visibility of the long term financial picture for when Social Security Programme ends.</p>
5.	<b>IPSOS Mori results of MSPs perceptions of Social Security Scotland</b>	<p>5.1. DH and HM presented the IPSOS Mori results and members were advised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPSOS asked MSPs about their perceptions of Social Security Scotland as part of an survey involving a number of public, private and third sector organisations.</li> <li>This survey provides a useful measure of the organisation's favourability and familiarity with MSPs, a key audience for our engagement, and helps inform the activity of our Parliamentary Team.</li> <li>MSPs recognise Social Security Scotland's benefits to society and encourage a collaborative working approach.</li> </ul> <p>5.2. Members discussed the positive findings noting the next steps are to use the findings to shape engagement with Parliament.</p>

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6.	<b>Payment Services to Clients</b>	<p>6.1. ND presented the Payment Services to Clients update and members were advised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security Scotland has used a Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) payment platform since 2018 which will not be viable for us to use from 2027.</li> <li>• A future replacement solution is required to allow Social Security Scotland to continue with payments to clients from October 2027.</li> <li>• An overview of the options considered was presented to members for awareness.</li> </ul> <p>6.2. Members discussed this work within the context of the wider future operating model project, with AMC offering to provide a further debrief session to members if beneficial.</p>
7.	<b>Any Other Business</b>	<p>6.1. Members noted the below the line papers.</p> <p>6.2. The next Executive Advisory Body meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 17 June 2025 at High Street, Glasgow.</p>

### Executive Advisory Body - Actions

Item	Action Item(s)	Owner	Status
1.	<b>Governance to look at restructuring the agenda for 17 June to allow adequate time to discuss performance.</b>	Governance	Open
2.	<b>Governance to commission papers for the review of the 5 strategic objectives in the business plan for Executive Advisory Body on 17 June.</b>	Governance	Open
3.	<b>SD to present a paper to Executive Advisory Body on the future financial planning trajectory.</b>	SD	Open
4	<b>AMC Business Support to check with non executive members if a follow up session on the Client Payment platform would be beneficial.</b>	AMC	Open