

# GENDER EDIT OF SCOTTISH BUDGET 2022 - 2023

This gender edit of the [Scottish Budget 2022 - 2023](#) compiles all references to women, gender and issues with implications for gender equality which appear in the document.

The Budget [was introduced](#) by Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021. This year's focus was using Scotland's finances to "tackle the climate emergency, support economic recovery and reduce inequalities." Key announcements made in the run up to the Budget included a doubling of the Scottish Child Payment to £20. In her announcement, the Cabinet Secretary emphasised the limits of additional Covid-19 funds from the Treasury and stated that recovery measures had been incorporated into existing budget lines.

This gender edit examines the Budget in sequence, with emphasis added by Engender.

## FOREWORD BY THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMY

"This budget – the first of this Parliament – is progressive, but also transitional. It paves the way for a **full Resource Spending Review in May 2022** which will set out the government's long-term funding plans and the roadmap for delivering key commitments, such as the establishment of a **National Care Service** and ending our contribution to climate change through a just transition."

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"This budget brings forward key commitments and lays the groundwork for much of the transformational investment and innovation that is to come across three strategic priorities: **tackling inequalities**; securing a just transition to Net Zero; and investing in economic and public service recovery."

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"We will drive forwards our **national mission to tackle child poverty** – investing in **training and employment opportunities, addressing financial insecurity and improving living standards**, and ensuring that every young person is able to fulfil their potential. Fundamental to this will be our significant investment in the **Scottish Child Payment**."

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"And, we will restore our precious **public services, not least health and social care** – **providing record levels of funding** to respond to the pressures created by the pandemic, and ensure that everyone can get the care they need in a time, place and way that suits.

Most significantly, we will take the next steps in the single greatest public health reform since the establishment of the NHS – **the creation of a new National Care Service.**”

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“Over £1.6 billion for social care and integration – progressing our commitment to **increase spend in social care by 25% by the end of parliament**, and laying the groundwork for the establishment of a **National Care Service.**”

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## CHAPTER 1 STRATEGIC CONTEXT: A FAIRER, GREENER SCOTLAND

### Long-term spending

“The Scottish Budget provides the first investment towards meeting our key priorities of **ending both child poverty** and Scotland’s contribution to climate change.”

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### Tackling inequalities

“While Scotland has the joint-lowest level of child poverty in the UK (alongside Northern Ireland), we know that there is significant work to do to meet our statutory targets to end it. **Game-changing initiatives like the Scottish Child Payment will help us get there, but will not be enough in isolation.** To succeed in being the country we want to be – fairer, greener, and more prosperous – this budget continues a national mission to tackle child poverty, and to make Scotland a land of opportunity for everyone, across every portfolio, and through our Shared Policy Programme with the Scottish Green Party.”

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“In total, we will invest **over £4 billion across social security and welfare payments, providing vital support for low income families, carers and disabled people** – including £1.95 billion to start delivery of the Adult Disability Payment in 2022-23, replacing the UK Government’s controversial Personal Independence Payment.”

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“We will continue to **invest in early learning and childcare and education** to ensure that every child and young person has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Key measures will include:

- **£544 million to deliver free funded ELC for three and four year olds, and two year olds from lower income households**, while taking forward work to **expand that to one year olds from low income households within this Parliament**.
- Provide the first £50 million of our commitment to invest £500 million in a **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund** across this Parliament – creating a pool of funding, with contributions across portfolios, to help ensure we #KeepThePromise priority to improve provision of holistic whole family support. Funding will ramp up significantly through the Spending Review, as capacity and capability for transformational change builds in the sector.”

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- “£23.6 million for the delivery of **Fair Start Scotland services – providing person-centred support for people furthest from the labour market**, including disabled people and those with long term health conditions, people from minority ethnic communities, and those who face other barriers to moving into fair and sustained work.”

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- “**£3 million to begin the early phasing of a school age childcare offer**, targeted to support the **six priority groups in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan**, and **£10 million to support delivery of holiday childcare for low income families**. We will take forward work to build an **affordable and accessible system of wraparound school age childcare, free to families on the lowest incomes**, within this Parliamentary term, supporting more parents to work, train or study.”

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- “**A public sector pay policy with a floor of £10.50 per hour**, increasing wages for the lowest paid workers. We will **also improve Fair Work Conditionality**, covering all forms of Scottish Government support to business, requiring organisations in receipt of public sector grants to pay at least **the real Living Wage** to all employees”

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## Supporting Scotland’s Recovery

“The importance of our social care services has never been clearer. **We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our nation’s carers, paid and unpaid, for the commitment and compassion we have seen throughout the pandemic**. Chief among our priorities for rebuilding health and care is the creation of the **National Care Service**. We will take forward

ambitious reforms, but this Budget ensures we do not wait for the service to come into being to continue to drive up standards and quality.

- We will provide total investment of **over £1.6 billion for social care and integration** – a significant step towards our commitment to **increase spend in social care by 25% by the end of this Parliament**, and beginning to lay the groundwork for the establishment of a National Care Service.
- **Funding of £846.6 million will be transferred from the Health and Social Care portfolio to local authorities** for a range of investments in health and social care and mental health services.
- To support retention, and begin to embed improved pay and conditions for care workers, the Scottish Government considers that **this funding requires local government to deliver a £10.50 minimum pay settlement for adult social care workers in commissioned services**, in line with the equivalent commitment being made in the public sector pay policy. This brings the total transfer to over £1.4 billion.
- Our wider investment in social care will also see an additional £25 million for social work capacity, £50 million investment in Fair Work for adult social care staff, £40 million investment in Multi-Disciplinary teams, and **£5 million to support a right to respite for unpaid carers.**”

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- **“£53.2 million to continue Justice recovery**, renewal and transformation – including £15 million for community justice services – alongside **£13 million** to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for court recovery and **addressing trial backlogs.**

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- “Over £23 million support to front-line organisations that **help eradicate and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls**, and £4 million in additional funding to improve victim-centred support.”

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“Throughout the pandemic, local government led the way in supporting the resilience of our communities and safeguarding some of our most at-risk and vulnerable people ...

- We will provide an overall funding package of almost £12.5 billion, representing a real terms increase of 4.5%.

- This includes a real terms resource increase of 4.4%, to £11.8 billion, and a real terms capital uplift of 7.2%, to £679.5 million – ensuring a fair settlement for councils. It provides additional funding for shared commitments to deliver **additional teachers, enhance social care provision, extend free school meals**, and provide greater protection against flooding.
- We will provide full flexibility to local authorities in **setting council tax rates** – enhancing their fiscal autonomy – while taking forward our commitment to hold a Citizens’ Assembly on local government funding, including Council Tax, within this Parliament.”

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### Promoting Equality and Human Rights

“We will provide a **Promoting Equality and Human Rights budget line of £44.98 million this year – an increase of 39%** – demonstrating the Scottish Government’s commitment to promoting equality and realising human rights for the people of Scotland. This will enable continued funding to organisations supporting some of the most vulnerable in society, through **Delivering Equally Safe and Embedding Equality and Human Rights funds**. It also delivers on a range of Programme for Government commitments in **equality, inclusion and human rights**, including **support to front-line organisations that work to tackle gender-based violence or deliver Equally Safe.**”

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## CHAPTER 3: PRE-BUDGET SCRUTINY BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

### Criminal Justice Committee

“The Committee highlighted the **court backlog and the impact of this on the victims of crime**, the perpetrators of crime and on those who work across the system. In addition, the Committee concluded that many of the budget challenges across the justice system stem from **long-standing problems that pre-dated the pandemic and which have not been adequately addressed over the years**”

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“The 2022-23 Justice budget will address many of the Criminal Justice Committee’s recommendations. It includes **additional funding to ensure the substantial activity on Justice recovery, renewal and transformation continues to address the courts backlog**, and provides additional funding for community justice services. Additional funding will also be

invested to improve victim-centred support, including for **victims of violence against women and girls.**”

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### Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

“The Committee’s report focuses on areas in which the Scottish Government can further embed equality and human rights in our budget processes. **The report highlights recommendations from the Scottish Government’s Equality Budget Advisory Group (EBAG) and the First Minister’s National Advisory Council on Women and Girls (NACWG)** that aim to drive **progress in equality and human rights budgeting**. The Scottish Government welcomes the ambitious recommendations from EBAG and the NACWG and the Committee’s report.”

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“The Scottish Government has taken a range of actions to increase the use and effectiveness of equality budgeting including establishing the **Equality Budget Advisory Group**, the annual publication of the **Equality and Fairer Scotland Budget Statement** and **wider work to mainstream equality and human rights**. Building on this work, the Scottish Government will **provide a response to the Equality Budgeting Advisory Group (EBAG) in spring 2022** on their 2021 recommendations, which include recommendations on human rights budgeting.”

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The report notes that **equality data is an essential** component of equality and human rights budgeting as it enables spend to be tracked and monitoring of its impact across protected characteristics. The Scottish Government has taken a range of actions to improve the availability and quality of equality data including establishing the **Equality Data Improvement Programme (EDIP)**, which is working to strengthen Scotland’s equality evidence base. The Programme is led by a Board which includes representatives from key public sector organisations.

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### Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

“As we lay the foundations for our National Care Service, this budget underpins our ongoing commitment to shifting the balance of spend toward mental health, and to primary, social and community care and recognises the importance of **preventative spend in improving health outcomes**. This is informed by our Preventative and Proactive Care

Programme and our work to improve the data and evidence available for decision-making and targeted interventions, including our **Equality Data Improvement Programme** and leading-edge work to develop economic and ethico-legal framework for priority setting in Health and Social Care partnerships, that integrates economics, decision-analysis, ethics and law”

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### Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

“Furthermore, the report calls for continued work to **tackle health inequalities**, as well as highlighting some positive innovations to come from the COVID-19 pandemic (such as the provision of digital services).”

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“Away from funding, the report covers a number of other topics including plans for a **National Care Service, Community Wealth Building, levelling up, the Affordable Housing Programme and the Social Housing Net Zero Heat Fund**. Scottish Government will respond to the Committee on these matters in more detail in our formal response letter but can confirm that this Budget delivers an increase to the Housing budget for 2022-23.”

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### Social Justice and Social Security Committee

“The Committee’s report is centred around the **spend required in 2022-23 to achieve the 2023-24 Interim Child Poverty targets**. The Committee call for the **doubling of the Scottish Child Payment, and this budget confirms that we will increase this to £20 per week from April 2022**. The report covers an ask to support families in receipt of Universal Credit whose children do not receive free school meals. This budget commits continued support for as many children and young people as possible through Bridging Payments, worth £520 in 2022, and we remain committed to delivering the Scottish Child Payment in full by the end of 2022, subject to the necessary data being received from DWP. The report also welcomes the **expansion of high quality free early learning and child care for eligible families**.”

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“Going beyond child poverty, the Committee’s report also covers important issues like homelessness and support for carers, and Scottish Government can confirm that this budget includes **£20.4 million to expand carer support under the Carers Act, bringing the**

**total investment in the Act to £88.4 million per year. There is also an additional £5 million in the budget to enable more carers to access breaks from caring.** We are also continuing to invest more than **£350 million in 2022-23** in supporting eligible unpaid carers through **Carer’s Allowance, Carer’s Allowance Supplement, and the Young Carer Grant.**”

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## CHAPTER 4: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

### Portfolio Responsibilities

“We continue to be hugely indebted to our **front-line staff and unpaid carers**, who provide vital care day in and day out, under the toughest of circumstances. Their selfless efforts to care for others have been invaluable in our response to the pandemic so far, and our spending plans for 2022-23 continue to provide support for the **mental health and wellbeing of our health and social care staff, and unpaid carers**, as set out in the Programme for Government.”

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## CHAPTER 5: SOCIAL JUSTICE, HOUSING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT PORTFOLIO

### Portfolio Responsibilities

“Our portfolio is responsible for **tackling inequalities**, and we aim to **embed equality, inclusion and human rights into our policy-making and public service delivery**. We’re also responsible for the **national mission to reduce child poverty**, for creating a **fairer Scotland** and for providing accessible and affordable housing.”

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“The portfolio supports a wide range of work to **prevent discrimination and promote equality, inclusion and human rights** creating the conditions for cohesive, resilient and safe communities. We support the **Equality and Human Rights infrastructure across Scotland to address systemic inequality, tackle hate crime and address violence against women and girls.**”

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“We will continue to **prioritise funding to support the development, design and implementation of our social security powers and delivery of benefits** through Social Security Scotland. We are establishing a social security system that meets the needs of the

people of Scotland and delivers a service that treats people with dignity, fairness and respect. ”

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“Further to our commitments set out in the Programme for Government and the Covid Recovery Strategy, we continue to: prioritise funding from across government portfolios to **reduce child poverty**, including **doubling Scottish Child Payment** for eligible children under six years from April 2022, and extending it to under 16s by December 2022; invest in Discretionary Housing Payments to provide direct financial support to those struggling with housing costs; support our continued major expansion of affordable and social housing; improve safety, quality and standards of existing homes; support the third sector and develop social enterprise; and, eradicate homelessness and rough sleeping.”

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## CHAPTER 7: EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO

### Portfolio Responsibilities

- “**deliver 1140 hours of high quality early learning and childcare** to all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds and extend the piloting of access to funded ELC for all children who defer school start;”

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- “**deliver a £10 million summer holiday childcare programme** for low income families and start the early phasing of community-based systems of wraparound childcare.”

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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### ABOUT ENGENDER

Engender is Scotland’s feminist policy and advocacy organisation, working to increase women’s social, political and economic equality, enable women’s rights, and make visible the impact of sexism on women and wider society. We work at Scottish, UK and international level to produce research, analysis, and recommendations for intersectional feminist legislation and programmes.