

Royal College of Occupational Therapists  
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Shirley-Anne Sommerville  
Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

29 May 2019

Dear Cabinet Secretary,  
**Disability Assistance in Scotland: Consultation**

I'm contacting you, on behalf of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists, regarding the Disability Assistance in Scotland Consultation.

As you will be aware, occupational therapists are uniquely trained to address both mental health and physical health at the same time. We believe occupational therapy can create better outcomes for people by supporting their independence and recovery through person-centred care as well as supporting the Scottish Government on national health and care strategies.

While the Royal College is not submitting a response to the full consultation, I would like to highlight our views in relation to two questions in the document. Question 18 discusses what supporting information is relevant when assessing an application for Disability Assistance. The Royal College would like to emphasise the importance of including reports from occupational therapy and other allied health professionals, as well as family and carer reports.

Question 50 discusses the Scottish Government proposal to use a points-based system to assess eligibility in relation to Disability for Working-Age People. We recommend that any assessment carried out is person-centred. Occupational therapy is also best placed to conduct assessments of daily living.

The above questions highlight the need to include occupational therapy in future consultations on the social security system in Scotland and that the profession is included when assessing disability assistance. Should you require further information, or would like to discuss how the Royal College can engage on the development of Disability Assistance in Scotland, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



**Alison Keir**  
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