

PE1683/H

Joint submission from TAMBA and petitioner of 14 September 2018

RESPONSE FROM TAMBA, SENT VIA JENNIFER EDMONSTONE

1. We are grateful for the Government's one off sponsorship of a care in multiple pregnancy conference, which should help deliver the ambitions in the "Best Start". We were delighted to be asked to apply for a year's funding towards a proportion of the costs of our work in Scotland. We were very pleased to see the long term support provided to Homestart and would welcome the opportunity to apply for long term programme support in the future.

2. We welcome the consultation and proposals into the Best Start Grant and trust that our feedback and that of the committee will be incorporated into the review. The further clarification around the grant, best start foods and nursery and school pay payments is very encouraging.

3. We look forward to the review of the Deposit Guarantee scheme and the clarification provided by the analysis which needs to outline how it has helped our families.

4. It is encouraging to hear of the Maternity Discrimination Working Group and would appreciate their confirmation that they have, or plan to, looked at this issue for multiple birth families.

5. We applaud the policy objective to lift as many children out of child poverty. To support these efforts, we would welcome the opportunity of being closely involved in the development of the new income supplement as many of our families would closely fit the target groups identified.

RESPONSE FROM JENNIFER EDMONSTONE

There are three points I would personally like to add:-

- 1) any help for low income families with multiples is welcome, however, those who find themselves barely outside the category of "low income" and have multiples, are particularly stretched due to the additional costs of having more than one child at a time;
- 2) any support with nursery and the fees is welcome, however, there still appears to be a large gap between the ages of 0-3 (before funded hours is available for most), in which parents of multiples find themselves priced out the job market, making it difficult for them to re enter at a later date (and the consequences thereof); and
- 3) in your response, it stated "*we believe that every child born and living in Scotland should get an equal start in life*". I agree with this sentiment and on that basis, I would request that you revisit child benefit legislation in particular, where this is not the current situation (and also maternity pay and leave).