**X September 2022**

**Dear** [INSERT MSP NAME]

I live in your constituency at [INSERT ADDRESS] and I am a social worker.

We depend on our cars to do our jobs. It is essential for us to support people effectively. We need to visit individuals in their homes and other places. We may also need to help people we work with get to care and support or to events and meetings. Sometimes this needs to happen urgently.

Most local authorities allow social workers to claim back 45p per mile, which is the maximum non-taxable allowance set by HMRC.

This rate is unchanged in ten years. Yet, the cost of fuel has increased by 30% in the last year alone and is likely to rise further still. The sums don’t add up.

Social workers are being penalised financially for doing their jobs. For those travelling long distances in rural areas, the pressure is even more acutely felt. I’m sure you agree that this is neither fair nor sustainable.

We need a mileage allowance rate that takes account of rising fuel costs and adequately covers our travel costs for work purposes.

As my MSP, I hope you will support the Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW) campaign to increase the rate of mileage allowance provided to social workers. Here’s what you can do:

* **Sign Motion S6M-05829: Increase in Mileage Allowance for Social Workers and Social Care Staff by Jackie Baillie MSP** calling on both the Scottish and UK Governments to work together on this issue to better support social workers.
* **Write to the Minister for Wellbeing and Social Care, Kevin Stewart MSP** urging the Scottish Government to fund local authorities to enable them to uplift the mileage allowance.
* **Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kwasi Kwarteng MP** urging the UK Government to raise the non-taxable allowance to 60p per mile.
* **Meet with the Scottish Association of Social Work (SASW)** to discuss ways you can support the campaign. Their Policy Officer can be contacted on jonny.adamson@basw.co.uk

Thank you in advance for your support for the social work profession.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[INSERT NAME]