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For immediate release

## **LOCAL MP CALLS FOR RETHINK ON CUTS TO PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENTS**

Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock's MP Corri Wilson has called on the UK Government to "fundamentally rethink" cuts to social security for disabled people and take note of the wealth of opposition to the emergency legislation that will effectively remove financial support from 160,000 people across the UK.

The Department for Work and Pensions was told to expand the eligibility for Personal Independence Payments following two tribunal rulings at the end of last year, but UK Ministers introduced emergency legislation to tighten the rules and block support for thousands of disabled people - including many who suffer from mental health conditions.

Corri Wilson, the SNP Disability spokesperson at Westminster, has written to Work and Pensions Secretary Damian Green calling for him to consider the weight of opposition to the changes and the devastating impact this change will have on the lives of so many people across the country.

Corri Wilson MP said:

*"These devastating cuts to Personal Independence Payments have come as shock to my constituents and to disabled people and their families right across the country. The UK Government has already made deep cuts to the social security budget and promised there would be no more during this Parliament.*

*"These changes will exclude vast numbers of disabled people from vital financial assistance and the move also sends a dangerous message to the public that people suffering from mental health conditions are somehow less worthy of support than those with physical disabilities.*

*"Such shameful treatment from the Tories shows exactly what their priority is - a hard Tory Brexit at any cost and with no thought for the effect their hideous obsession with austerity is continuing to have on individuals and their families.*

*"I call on Damian Green to fundamentally rethink this callous cut to Personal Independence Payments."*

....ENDS