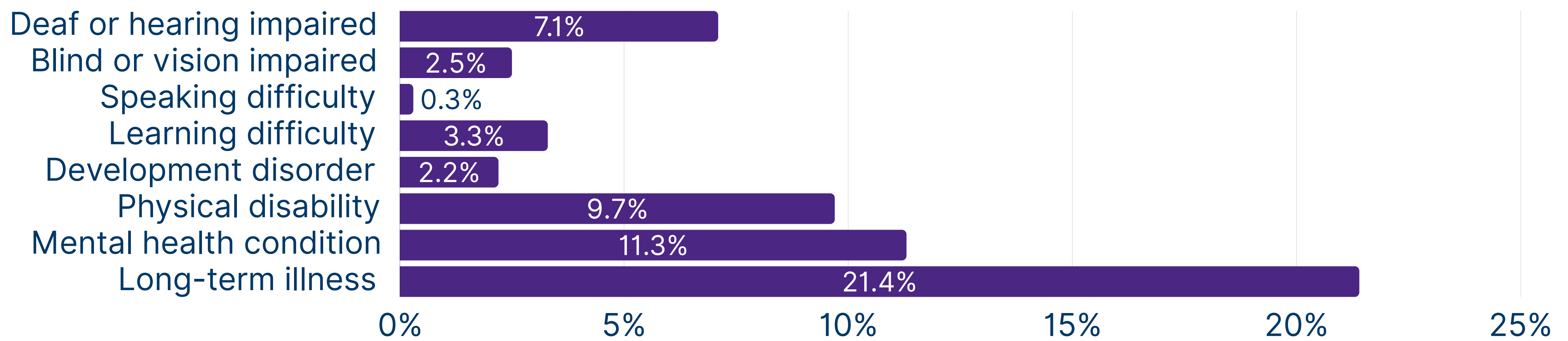


State of Poverty: Behind Graeme's Story

"Being sick, injured or disabled continues to be **the main reason why people aged 50 to 64 years are economically inactive** in the labour market, with 44.7% of inactive individuals giving this as the main reason."¹

"When disabled, **there are not many roads back to being a 'useful person' and using your skills.**"
(Quote from Lived Experience Panel)

% of people reporting specific health conditions in Scotland's Census, 2022



The majority of adults with disabilities maintain active social lives, but loneliness and social isolation are more prevalent among adults with disabilities than among those without a disability.

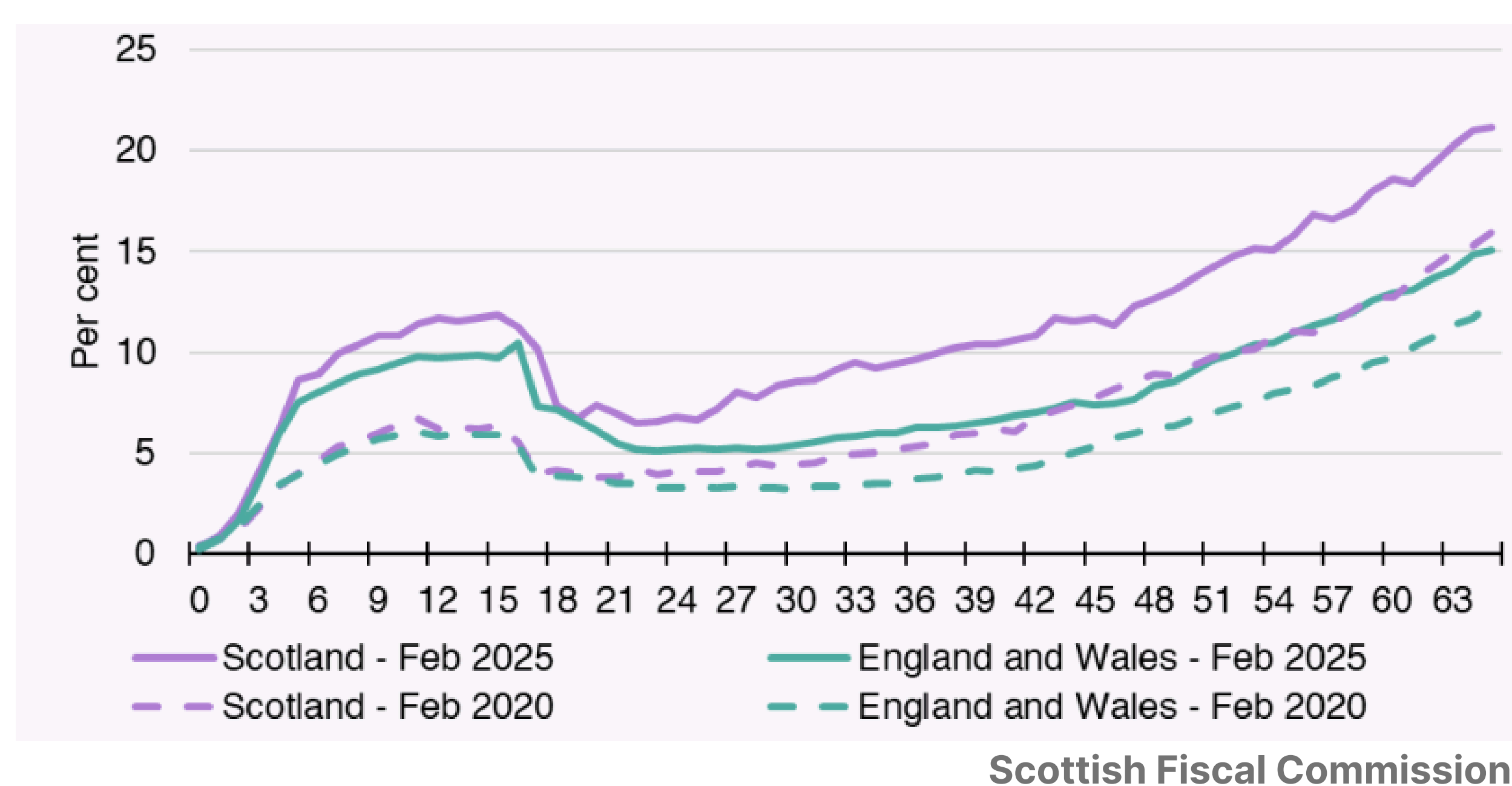
% Reported Feelings of Loneliness 'in the last week'²

	Disabled	Non-disabled
Almost all/All of the time	11	2
Some of the time	27	13
Almost never	60	80

% How often adults meet socially with friends, family, neighbours or work colleagues²

	Disabled	Non-disabled
At least once/week	64	69
At least once/per month	22	24
A few times a year/rarely/never	16	8

% of people by age in receipt of a disability payment in Scotland and England and Wales in February 2020 and February 2025.⁴



The percentage of people receiving disability payments is growing across the UK, but is growing faster in Scotland than in England and Wales.

The Scottish Fiscal Commission forecasts that **over 80% of the Scottish Government's social security spending will be on disability payments by 2030-31**, with over a million Scots in receipt of these payments.⁴

1 DWP, Economic labour market status of individuals aged 50 and over, trends over time: September, 2025.
 2 Scottish Household Survey 2024.
 3 Scotland's Census: Health, Disability and Unpaid Care, 2022.
 4 Scottish Fiscal Commission, 2026.