

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 7th JUNE 2005

Question

Would the President inform members –

- (a) whether the eligibility criteria for Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) has been amended in any way to eliminate ‘disguised retirement and unemployment’ referred to in his answer to my question on 24th May 2005, and if not, would he explain his statement that ‘the assumption that existing and future LTIA recipients would all have been eligible for Invalidity Benefit is erroneous’?
- (b) whether the Committee is to change the eligibility criteria for LTIA so as to reduce the number in receipt of this benefit in the future, and if so how does he propose to do this? and,
- (c) with regards to the figures presented in my question of 24th May 2005, what proportion, if any, of current recipients of LTIA would have been eligible for Invalidity Benefit under the previous system and whether, in the majority of cases, their payments have been reduced in comparison with the previous system, thus reducing the level of overall payments?

Answer

- (a) The criteria for Long Term Incapacity Allowance remain unchanged and can only be changed by amendments in legislation approved by the States. The eligibility criteria for LTIA and the old Invalidity Benefit are totally different. To qualify for Invalidity Benefit a claimant had to be totally incapable of any work whereas LTIA does not contain any test of incapacity for work but assesses a person’s loss of physical or mental faculty. People who may have been ineligible for Invalidity Benefit could be eligible for LTIA.
- (b) The Committee has no plans to change any criteria and certainly has not considered reducing the scope or coverage of LTIA. The Deputy has been advised on many occasions that a full evaluation of the incapacity benefit changes is to take place after the first year. If any changes are needed as a result, these will be considered by the Committee and action taken accordingly.
- (c) This question is impossible to answer. As described in the answer in part (a) there can be no direct comparison between the two benefits as the eligibility criteria are different.