

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2006**

**Question**

Would the Minister inform members –

- (a) whether a system is in place in the Social Security Department to keep a record of the number of Social Security cards issued by nationality and, if so, what the statistics by nationality are?
- (b) whether these records can be interpreted to demonstrate the numbers of individuals currently in Jersey in order to ascertain the demographics for immigration analysis and active card use or ownership?
- (c) whether any cross-records are kept with visits to doctors and ITIS payments and, if not, whether it would be possible for such a records system to be implemented in order to assist in identifying who is working where and how many people are paying their Social Security contributions?

**Answer**

- (a) The Social Security system collects information for Social Security purposes not for demographic or immigration purposes. Many individuals, whilst having a single Social Security number, will have had issued to them more than one card. The Department has to issue replacements cards and people with two or three jobs need two or three cards which inevitably reduces the value and use of this statistic. However, the Department does register individuals who have found employment in the Island and records the nationality of that individual against a unique social security number. From this information the Department can analyse the nationalities of those individuals who are newly registered and those who have paid contributions.

**NEW REGISTRANTS**

British ( <b>includes</b> Jersey)	5053	5190
Polish	1248	1721
Portuguese	457	516
French	313	292
Irish	213	199
German	75	187
Overall Total	<b>8610</b>	<b>8946</b>

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SCHEDULE RETURNS  
(This is not individuals, but the number of contributions)**

	A 2004	B 2004	C 2004	D 2004	A 2005	B 2005	C 2005	D 2005	A 2006
Polish	1577	2532	2962	2761	2564	3598	3889	3762	3413
Portuguese	6720	7286	7150	6869	6469	7050	6923	7152	6492
British	37152	37460	38399	36786	36141	37475	38582	37755	36623
Total	52841	54880	56254	53920	52321	55696	56928	56121	53396

- (b) The simple answer is no, for a number of reasons. The information is accurate for Social Security purposes but not for demographic purposes. For example it will include people who have recently left Jersey and not include those who do not have to register with the Social Security Department, such as detached workers and those not liable to pay Social Security contributions. Currently the computer holds about 400,000 individual

records of which about a quarter are active. The Department is currently co-operating with the Population Office and the Statistics Unit to develop the information necessary to monitor the labour market and the population from a number of sources.

- (c) There is no link to ITIS payments, doctors visits and where people are working and paying contributions. Not all people visiting the doctor or indeed pay contributions actually pay tax. The Social Security system knows who is paying contributions and where they are working or have worked. The Department does not know who might not be contributing illegally, but evidence suggests that compliance is good across both employed and self-employed sectors and no evidence exists to suggest extensive evasion of contribution payments.