

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY SENATOR B.E. SHENTON**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2007

Question

Would the Minister advise members of the total cost of the provision of free television licences for the elderly in 2006?

Answer

The 2006 expenditure for TV licences was £187,204, this is made up of benefit of £176,156 and administration and overhead costs of £11,048.

As Members will be aware this benefit was introduced in 2006. The 2006 costs were lower than provided for as take up by those who bought their licence in the first months of 2006 was relatively low. Applications only built up during the year as pensioners renewed their licence on the due date. Expenditure for a full year in 2007 will be higher, with the increased take-up.