

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2010**

**Question**

“Can the Minister inform members of the number of persons currently receiving Income Support, and the weekly cost to the Island and will he further state how many people receiving it have been unemployed for longer than 12 months, 6 months and 3 months?”

Does Income Support include payment of mortgages, if so, for how long does this support continue per person and what has the total cost to the taxpayer been since Social Security implemented the Income Support system?”

**Answer**

8,544 households received Income Support (IS) (including transition) on 28th February 2010, and the equivalent weekly benefit cost was £1,474,054<sup>[1]</sup>.

The table below provides details of the number of individuals in receipt of IS who are registered as actively seeking work for the periods requested (figures as at 31st January 2010).

Duration of unemployment	Number of individuals actively seeking work
3 to 6 months	246
6 to 12 months	176
12 months or longer	92

There is no provision within the IS scheme for payment of mortgages. In a very small number of cases with exceptional circumstances financial assistance has been provided for the payment of mortgage interest via a discretionary payment, which falls outside the main framework of IS.

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<sup>[1]</sup> This amount does not include the cost of residential care, but it does include the cost of transition benefits paid to individuals in residential care.