

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 6th MARCH 2012**

Question

Will the Minister give members an explanation of the difference between the population figure (97,857 according to the 2011 Census) and the figure of 92,500 members of the Health Insurance scheme given in his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2010?

Answer

The Health Insurance scheme is available to all Jersey residents, once they have lived in Jersey for at least six months at any time, and have paid any Social Security contributions due during that time. The estimate provided each year is based on the population figure from the Statistics Unit for the previous year, to account for the new arrivals during the year.

These population statistics are shown on the gov.je website* and, for example, are used in the States Annual Performance Report. The difference between the Census figures and the population estimates over the last few years is being investigated by the Statistics Unit.

As noted in the response to question 6709, some historical data was reported inaccurately in the statistical appendix to the 2010 accounts. The correct information is set out below:

HEALTH INSURANCE	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of persons in the scheme	88,200	89,300	90,800	91,800	92,500
Number of doctors' visits during year by claimants	346,465	345,645	346,782	366,757	344,054
Number of prescriptions during year	1,251,616	1,324,335	1,489,319	1,590,227	1,651,355

There are no errors in the statistical appendix in respect of years 2009 and 2010. The transcription errors relate solely to the historical data for 2006, 2007 and 2008. The statistical appendix does not form part of the report and accounts and these were not affected in any way by this transcription error.

*<http://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/TD%20PopulationChangesSince2000%2020090529%20SU.xls>