

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2013**

Question

Will the Minister inform members whether the Social Security Department's Annual Ministerial Report and Accounts for 2012 and the 2012 Annual Report on Income Support will be made available to members before the annual Budget debate, and notwithstanding the answer, will he explain why these reports take so long to be published in this or any other year?

Answer

Yes, I can confirm that the Social Security Department's Annual Ministerial Report and Accounts for 2012 and the 2012 Annual Report on Income Support will be published in October.

My department has made considerable progress in the publication of detailed information on benefits over the last two years. In 2011, a separate annual report was published on Income Support for the first time. This year, a single annual report has been prepared incorporating details of the Social Security Fund, the Social Security Reserve Fund, the Health Insurance Fund, Income Support, Back to Work and other tax funded benefits and services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers who have worked extremely hard to prepare this new publication which represents a substantial improvement in the information that the Department is able to provide to States Members and the general public.

A document of this nature will always take time to prepare. Once drafted, the final version then requires Ministerial and Treasury signoffs, prior to submission to the Department's external auditors, PwC, and finally to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Social Security Annual Report for 2012 was approved by the Comptroller and Auditor General on 2 October, and will be printed and distributed to all States members and other stakeholders in advance of the next States sitting.