

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2014**

Question

Is the Minister in a position to report back to the Assembly, as requested in P.37/2013 ('Living wage for Jersey – investigation'), on the results of his investigation into the potential for the introduction of a living wage in Jersey and, if not, will he state why and inform members when he will be in a position to do so?

Answer

The 2014 business plans for both the Chief Minister's Department and the Social Security Department include commitments to work on researching a living wage for Jersey.

As explained in response to P.37/2013 and during the debate itself, scoping a meaningful living wage will require significant input from officers in both Departments. It therefore could not be achieved by the end of January 2014 as proposed in P.37/2013. During the debate it was confirmed that a report by the end of 2014 would be acceptable.

There are a number of different elements to the Living Wage calculation, one of which is income distribution. Work on the 2014/2015 Household Income Distribution Survey will start in Spring 2014 and will be completed by the end of 2015. Alongside that, work will be undertaken to establish other elements of the Living Wage calculation, such as basic cost of living.

An interim report will be brought forward at the end of 2014 pending completion of the Household Distribution Survey.