

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY S.Y. MÉZEC OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12th APRIL 2016**

Question

Could the Minister provide a breakdown for every year since its introduction of the total amount spent on –

- (a) Income Support payments;
- (b) Short Term Incapacity Allowance; and
- (c) Long Term Incapacity Allowance;

including an explanation as to how much of the rising cost of each of those payments is attributable to a higher number of claimants, rather than the component amounts being raised?

Answer

This information is published each year in the departmental annual report¹. Values for the 5 year period from 2010 to 2014 inclusive are provided below.

Each table shows the total spend and the number of claims. Short Term Incapacity Allowance and Long Term Incapacity Allowance are contributory benefits and benefit rates are increased each year on 1 October in line with the annual rise in average earnings. Income Support payments are based on an assessment of the household income and assets and the range of components available to the individual household. All current Income Support component rates are published on www.gov.je². All historical rates are available at www.jerseylaw.je³.

- (a) These values refer to Income Support weekly payments and exclude transitional payments, residential care payments and special payments.

Income Support weekly benefit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Spend (£'000)	61,670	66,940	71,349	72,953	73,866
Total Number of Claims as at 31/12	6,299	6,387	6,636	6,552	6,486
Total Number of Participants as at 31/12	10,917	11,355	11,908	11,761	11,665
Approximate average weekly claim value per household	£188.28	£201.55	£206.77	£214.12	£219.01
Approximate average weekly claim value per participant	£108.63	£113.37	£115.22	£119.29	£121.77

¹ For example, see <http://www.statesassembly.gov.je/AssemblyReports/2015/R.111-2015.PDF> for the 2014 report. NB - Income Support data first published in 2011.

² See <http://www.gov.je/Benefits/IncomeSupport/Pages/Rates.aspx>

³ See <http://www.jerseylaw.je/Laws/Alphabetical/I>

(b) Short Term Incapacity Allowance (STIA)

Short Term Incapacity Allowance	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cost of STIA claims £'000	12,736	12,692	13,650	12,938	12,413
Number of STIA claims paid	29,269	28,652	27,260	25,703	24,743
Number of days paid	527,563	520,157	543,149	509,714	476,243
Approximate average weekly claim value	£168.99	£170.80	£175.92	£177.68	£182.45
Standard rate of benefit (£ per week) as at 31/12	£179.97	£184.45	£187.25	£191.38	£196.42

(c) Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA); This table includes Invalidity Benefit as well as LTIA which replaced Invalidity Benefit in October 2004. Claimants with ongoing claims from before this date are able to continue to claim the previous benefit.

LTIA and Invalidity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Spend Invalidity benefit (£'000)	12,457	11,239	10,043	9,016	8,087
Total Spend LTIA (£'000)	11,901	12,635	13,416	14,567	14,858
Total Spend across long term incapacity (£'000)	24,358	23,874	23,459	23,583	22,945
Number of Invalidity claims in payment as at 31/12	1,086	967	859	759	667
Number of LTIA claims in payment as at 31/12	3,422	3,533	3,670	3,815	3,958
Total number of Long Term Incapacity claims	4,508	4,500	4,529	4,574	4,625
Approximate average Invalidity weekly claim value	£220.59	£223.51	£224.84	£228.44	£233.16
Approximate average LTIA weekly claim value	£66.88	£68.77	£70.30	£73.43	£72.19
Standard rate of benefit (£ per week) as at 31/12	£ 179.97	£ 184.45	£ 187.25	£ 191.38	£ 196.42