

2017.06.20

1 Deputy R.J. Renouf of St. Ouen of the Minister for Social Security regarding the introduction of legislation to provide greater employment protection for carers: [1(360)]

Does the Minister support the introduction of legislation to provide greater employment protection for carers, this having been identified as a priority in the recently released *Jersey Carers Strategy*; and, if so, will the Minister state what action she will be taking to bring forward such legislation?

Deputy S.J. Pinel of St. Clement (The Minister for Social Security):

I am pleased to have this opportunity to clarify that the Employment Law already provides specific employment rights for unpaid carers. Employees have the right to request a change of their working patterns that will enable them to provide unpaid care for another person, whether that be a relative, partner, friend or neighbour. The States approved the relevant change to the Employment Law in 2014 and it came into force in September 2015.

3.1.1 The Deputy of St. Ouen:

However, it is felt by the carers at their Carer Strategy day that the law was not working given that this was identified as a need by the carers. Therefore, will the Minister undertake to consult with representatives of unpaid carers to establish why they feel that the law change has not worked and established how their needs can be better supported?

Deputy S.J. Pinel:

Talks are already underway between J.A.C.I., the Jersey Association of Carers Incorporated, and J.A.C.S., the Jersey Advisory and Conciliation Services. They are already underway and what the Deputy is asking is already happening.

The Bailiff:

No other questions, Deputy?

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

No more questions.