

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

Question

In light of the work being undertaken on the 1,001 Days Initiative and the importance of paternal input, where possible, to a child's development, what plans, if any, does the Minister have to introduce shared paternity leave for both parents, irrespective of their sex?

Answer

The Minister has already directed the Employment Forum to consult on whether the family friendly rights provided in the Employment (Jersey) Law 2003 should be extended to provide a right for periods of maternity, parental or adoption leave to be shared by two parents, irrespective of gender.

The Forum conducted an extensive public consultation earlier this year and will present its recommendation to the Minister by the end of December 2017. The Minister will review the Forum's decisions and will reach a decision on whether to introduce shared parental leave in January 2018.

The provision of gender neutral parental benefits will also be discussed in the next stage of the Social Security Review public consultation, which is planned for launch in the next few weeks.