

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2017**

Question

Further to the responses of the Minister for Social Security during questions without notice on 27th November 2017 that, in respect of the Social Security Review, the Statistics Unit has been involved “*in providing the questions without bias for any review that we do*” and that the Unit has been “*the principal port of call*” for the Department of Social Security and that the Unit has been involved with “*all 3 parts of this consultation and the review programme and very heavily so*”, will the Chief Minister specify what involvement the Statistics Unit has had with the Social Security Review and when that involvement occurred?

Answer

The Statistics Unit was asked for methodological and statistical advice and guidance on questions drafted by the Social Security Department during October 2016 and September 2017. This took place alongside other processes, including review with internal Social Security staff, and with consultants supporting the Social Security Review.

It is appropriate to seek the advice of the Statistics Unit in this way, as part of a process, as they have expertise in surveys and related methodologies.

The Statistics Unit follows the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics in Jersey](#), which enshrines their operational independence and separation from the design of policy.