

2018.09.11

**5 Deputy S.M. Ahier of St. Helier of the Minister for Social Security regarding recipients of the Food Costs Bonus and Cold Weather Bonus: [OQ.115/2018]**

Will the Minister inform the Assembly whether any people receiving the Level 3 care component of income support currently receive the Food Costs Bonus and the Cold Weather Bonus?

**Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier (The Minister for Social Security):**

There are no people who are receiving the Level 3 personal care component of income support who receive the separate benefit.

**4.5.1 Deputy S.M. Ahier:**

According to the Minister's report 2017 on page 61, cold weather payments: "The cold weather payments for the month made to any household receiving income support, that is for the whole of the month, includes one of the following: someone receiving personal care Level 3 component."

Could the Minister advise me as to which one of these is erroneous?

**Deputy J.A. Martin:**

Neither. The benefits that the Deputy asked for are a one-off payment and they are paid twice yearly in May and January. These are for people who are above income support but do not pay tax; there is that bridging gap. The people he is talking about on personal care Level 3 do receive a separate payment for cold weather and these are at the same value as the cold weather bonus but they receive them on a monthly basis automatically with their income support payments. So the question is a bit... it is not misleading. Both answers are correct. It is not a separate payment for the people who are not on income support on a personal care level but if they are on income support with a personal care level, and the other 2, if you have a child under 3 or a pensioner in your household, they will get the payment this way; monthly in arrears.