

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Question**

Further to reports that the criteria for Christmas payments to the elderly made by a well-known local benefactor are to be changed, will the Minister explain what plans, if any, there are for her Department to work with the benefactor in respect of the amended scheme and, in particular, will she advise –

- (a) whether it is planned that the Department will assist in identifying who is in receipt of Income Support and, if so, whether the permission of such recipients will be sought before the relevant information is made available to the benefactor; and
- (b) whether it is planned that the Department will take over administration of the distribution of the payments and, if so, whether distribution will continue to take place at Parish Halls?

**Answer**

I can confirm that officers from the Department are currently in discussions with the Sir David Kirch Charitable Trust regarding changes to Sir David's generous gifts to elderly islanders. These discussions are in relation to finalising operational details and their plans for distribution, which the Trust will communicate once they have concluded arrangements. I can confirm that there are no plans to transfer any customer data to the Trust.