

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2019**

Question

Will the Minister state –

- (a) how much money was recovered monthly over the last year from Social Security or Income Support claimants through the repayment of overpayments made by the Minister's department; and
- (b) how many individual households are currently paying repayments for overpayment of such benefits?

Answer

Part (a)

The income support scheme provides payments in advance to low income families. This ensures that vulnerable households are not left without funds to support their basic needs immediately following a drop in income. A system that makes payments in advance will always require adjustments where household income has increased after a payment has been made.

The table indicates the monthly totals for each month of 2019 in respect of adjustments from current Income Support claims and instalment payments received, in respect of the repayment of income support overpayments.

Some of this data has been extracted manually from operational records and the figures should be treated as estimates. As far as possible non- Income Support payments have been excluded from the analysis.

Month 2019	Total amount received
Jan	£190,000
Feb	£178,000
Mar	£240,000
Apr	£202,000
May	£296,000
Jun	£196,000
Jul	£360,000
Aug	£237,000
Sep	£194,000
Oct	£208,000
Nov	£246,000

- (b) 1,172 IS household claims are currently being adjusted for overpayments.