

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 29th MARCH 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON WEDNESDAY 7th APRIL 2021**

Question

Will the Minister advise –

- (a) why she has decided to cease the publication of an annual report in the previous easy to read format, with infographics and tables, and has instead chosen to split the relevant tables into a less accessible format;
- (b) where the tables 22-45 from the previous format can be found in the latest reporting; and
- (c) whether it is the Minister's assessment that the new format of the information is more difficult to access?

Answer

- (a) Consolidated Government of Jersey financial and operating data has been provided in its Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) from 2018 onwards. This document has included information previously published in the Social Security Annual report. Data sets contained in the ARA continue to be refined and updated year on year. Opportunities have been sought to only publish Customer and Local Services benefit data once, and also to make greater use of the existing GoJ open data platform for online data publication to supplement the data provided in the ARA. As a result of this ongoing change, the 2017 Social Security report was the last to be published as a separate report.
- (b) Tables 22-45 in the 2017 Social Security Annual Report primarily refer to tax funded benefit data. The underlying data sets for these tables are all available on the open data platform at <https://opendata.gov.je/dataset/cls-income-support> . The only exception is a summarised view of all benefit cost data in one table.
- (c) It is the Minister's assessment that the use of open data sets is an important way in which government activities are reported transparently and in detail to the public and that current and historic data is accessible in the same location. The site includes tools to allow tables and charts to be generated from the data, so that the user can analyse the data of interest to them.