

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER  
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 26th APRIL 2021  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 4th MAY 2021**

**Question**

Will the Minister provide members with information about any one-off special payments made through the Income Support scheme to applicants, showing in each case for the period 2009 to 2019 –

- a) the total sum awarded;
- (a) the number of claimants;
- (b) the category of payments; and

will she provide her analysis of any trends apparent in this data?

**Answer**

The Income Support (Special Payments) (Jersey) Regulations 2007 provide for one of payments to be made through the Income Support scheme to income support claimants and households whose circumstances are close to but just outside the income support criteria. Regulation three sets out the types of payment that can be made in this way.

**3 *Expenses that may be met by special payment***

- (1) *A special payment may be made to defray the following expenses payable by the claimant if the claimant or a member of the claimant's household is in urgent need of the goods or services being provided –*
  - (a) *the cost of buying items of furniture and household equipment;*

- (b) *the amount of a deposit required in order to secure a dwelling to be leased or licensed to the claimant's household where there are circumstances that reasonably require the household to remove and the dwelling to which the household is to remove is appropriate to the needs of the household;*
- (c) *the expenses of the removal of the claimant's household where there are circumstances that reasonably require the household to remove and the dwelling to which the household is to remove is appropriate to the needs of the household;*
- (d) *expenses essential to the claimant or a member of the claimant's household taking up remunerative work;*
- (e) *the cost of medical services and items supplied as a consequence of medical services.*
- (2) *A special payment may be made to defray the expenses payable by the claimant that are necessary to prevent a serious risk to the health, safety or welfare of the claimant or a member of the claimant's household.*
- (3) *A special payment may be made to defray the expenses payable by the claimant –*
  - (a) *for the funeral in Jersey of a member of his or her household or any parent, child or sibling;*
  - (b) *to bring a body into or move a body out of Jersey.*
- (4) *A special payment may be made to defray the expenses payable by the claimant to remove the claimant and any member of the claimant's household from Jersey.*
- (5) *However, no expenses are payable under this Regulation unless the claimant has no other reasonable means of meeting the cost.*
- (6) *In this Regulation a dwelling is appropriate to the needs of the household if it is no larger than is reasonably necessary for that household.*

The tables below give detailed information of the number of claims approved each year and the value of those claims by category of payment.

The tables show considerable variation from year to year. Special payments are provided on a case-by-case basis and demand will fluctuate depending on the needs of claimants from time to time. Special payments are only provided where there is no other benefit available to support the claimant. Since 2009 there have been significant changes both in the income support scheme itself and in other benefits available to lower income claimants. For example, the introduction of the Long-Term Care scheme in 2014 and the Pension Plus scheme in 2017 have provided alternative support for costs that previously might have been met by special payments.

The significant programme of refurbishment of social housing has created demand for support with removal costs and household equipment as large developments are completed.

Demand in some areas was suppressed in 2020 due to Covid restrictions. These include medical costs and costs associated with moving into new accommodation.

**Number of Claims by year and category**

Category	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Essential household equipment	472	518	531	535	497	491	459	246	209	212	180	149
Funerals	12	28	34	25	27	32	51	35	30	51	49	43
Medical expenses	1,171	1,027	712	754	637	986	971	699	530	415	362	253
Removal expenses	48	71	49	40	35	51	63	28	19	21	10	10
Rental deposit	171	149	202	227	249	289	272	187	177	136	149	121
Other	10	7	21	21	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Total	1,884	1,800	1,549	1,602	1,449	1,849	1,816	1,195	965	838	750	576

**Value of claims by year and category (£)**

Category	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Essential household equipment	145,515	159,251	181,417	196,730	176,990	327,382	217,839	140,791	131,585	132,601	130,281	137,936
Funerals	14,985	37,142	52,998	40,963	43,513	53,507	90,358	66,911	56,934	101,717	98,478	90,835
Medical expenses	209,609	350,283	312,436	228,300	179,068	265,434	304,357	242,358	217,623	169,484	137,937	96,418
Removal expenses	7,149	12,331	7,989	6,566	6,610	10,406	12,858	8,034	3,242	4,008	3,198	2,680
Rental deposit	138,200	117,868	200,750	203,129	230,334	343,127	324,835	247,744	228,634	217,220	256,437	201,137
Other	1,594	3,271	9,292	3,996	82	-	-	-	-	1,387	-	-
Total	517,051	680,146	764,880	679,685	636,597	999,856	950,247	705,838	638,019	626,417	626,330	529,005