

21.03.02

20. Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier will ask the following question of the Chief Minister (OQ.49/2021):

“Will the Chief Minister advise when he considers the Government will have delivered “meaningful increases on minimum wage”, given this commitment made by the Government in the Common Strategic Policy?”

The following response was provided in writing in accordance with Standing Order 63(9) as the oral question was not asked before the end of the time allowed for Oral Questions:

The Deputy is slightly misquoting the 2018 CSP which states ‘we will work towards a fair balance between wages, taxes and benefits, rents and living costs, enabling Islanders to achieve a decent standard of living and have secure incomes into older age’, with one of the examples given being that of ‘meaningful increases on minimum wage’.¹

The Government remains committed to meaningful increases in the level of the minimum wage.

Since the Common Strategic Plan was published, minimum wage rates have increased by 11% compared to an increase in average earnings of 7.4% and an increase in the RPI of 7.5% over the same period

As members will be aware, ministers have committed to reviewing the minimum wage process this year within the context of dealing with the outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would also refer the Deputy to my response to Oral Question 21/2021 in which I outlined the measures we have brought in to further assist those on lower incomes.

¹ The full reference in the Common Strategic Plan reads as follows:

“We will work towards a fair balance between wages, taxes and benefits, rents and living costs, enabling Islanders to achieve a decent standard of living and have secure incomes into older age; for example, through meaningful increases on minimum wage, together with supporting mechanisms to increase productivity in specific affected sectors.”