

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 15th MARCH 2021**

Question

Further to the response to WQ.54/2021, will the Minister provide worked examples of households with and without children on Income Support (I.S.), showing all components and disregards on income, between 2014 and 2021 in real and percentage terms; and is it the Minister's assessment that higher I.S. claims in 2021 are mainly caused by large increases in rental components averaging 28%?

Answer

Worked example 1: Working age single adult – job seeker – bedsit – private sector

Income Support Components at start of year								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Component	Value (Weekly)							
Adult Component	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£94.85	£97.72	£99.61	£99.61
Household Component	£51.31	£51.31	£51.31	£51.31	£52.85	£54.46	£55.51	£55.51
Accommodation (Private Rental, Bedsit)	£115.71	£125.30	£125.30	£131.88	£135.73	£139.86	£142.52	£142.52
Weekly IS Total	£259.14	£268.73	£268.73	£275.31	£283.43	£292.04	£297.64	£297.64
Weekly total household income	£259.14	£268.73	£268.73	£275.31	£283.43	£292.04	£297.64	£297.64

The percentage change in Income Support between 1/1/14 and 1/1/21 is 15%.

Worked example 2: Working age couple, one primary school aged child – One parent full time work; one working part time - 2 bed social rented flat.

Income Support Components at start of year								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Component	Value (Weekly)							
Adult Component	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£94.85	£97.72	£99.61	£99.61
Adult Component	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£94.85	£97.72	£99.61	£99.61

First Child Component	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£63.98	£65.87	£72.94	£77.98	£77.98
Household Component	£51.31	£51.31	£51.31	£51.31	£52.85	£54.46	£55.51	£55.51
Accommodation (Social Rental, 2 Bed Flat)	£207.90	£235.48	£235.48	£248.99	£256.27	£263.97	£269.01	£269.01
Earnings Disregard	20%	23%	23%	23%	25%	25%	26%	26%
Earned Income Adult 1, 35 hours pw less disregard	-£266.56	-£263.30	-£268.15	-£273.81	-£273.53	-£282.98	-£286.45	-£289.56
Earned Income Adult 2, 25 hours pw less disregard	-£190.40	-£188.07	-£191.54	-£195.58	-£195.38	-£202.13	-£204.61	-£206.83
Adult 1 Expenditure (Social Security Contributions)	£19.99	£20.52	£20.90	£21.34	£21.88	£22.64	£23.23	£23.48
Adult 2 Expenditure (Social Security Contributions)	£14.28	£14.66	£14.93	£15.24	£15.63	£16.17	£16.59	£16.77
Weekly IS Total	£84.74	£118.81	£111.14	£115.70	£133.30	£140.52	£150.47	£145.58
Weekly household income	£655.94	£705.01	£708.14	£725.30	£758.50	£787.32	£814.07	£816.38

The percentage change in income support between 1/1/14 and 1/1/21 is 72%

Worked example 3: pensioner couple, receiving full Jersey married OAP, living in 1-bed social rented flat

Income Support Components								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Component	Value (Weekly)							
Adult Component	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£94.85	£97.72	£99.61	£99.61
Adult Component	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£92.12	£94.85	£97.72	£99.61	£99.61
Household Component	£51.31	£51.31	£51.31	£51.31	£52.85	£54.46	£55.51	£55.51
Accommodation (Social Rental, 1 Bed Flat)	£165.27	£181.30	£181.30	£194.46	£200.13	£206.15	£210.07	£210.07

Pension Income Adult 1, Full OAP- less disregard	-£142.17	-£142.17	-£144.76	-£148.96	-£154.70	-£162.03	-£166.02	-£167.21
Pension Income Adult 2, Full OAP – less disregard	£ 95.81	£ 95.83	£ 97.56	£100.36	£ 104.18	£ 109.48	£ 110.68	£ 111.47
Weekly IS Total	£162.84	£178.85	£174.53	£180.69	£183.80	£182.84	£188.10	£186.12
Total household income	£485.31	£507.85	£507.85	£521.01	£533.68	£547.77	£562.02	£562.72

The percentage change in Income Support benefit between 1/1/14 and 1/1/21 is 14%.

The main driver for higher Income Support claims in 2021 is the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy. In respect of overall Income Support costs, the proportion of costs allocated to accommodation costs has remained constant between 2017 and 2020.