

2014.09.22

3.9 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier of the Minister for Social Security regarding measures to reduce the cost of G.P. services to residents:

Will the Minister, or possibly his successor, be introducing measures to reduce the cost of G.P. services to residents, particularly those under financial stress and, if so, when?

Senator F. du H. Le Gresley (The Minister for Social Security):

May I start by wishing the Deputy a long and happy retirement from this Assembly. He will be missed for not only his astute questions but also his rather quietly spoken voice. **[Laughter]** In answer to the question: my department's business plan for 2014 states that we will investigate options to improve support for G.P. costs within low income groups within the existing budget. This is an area of work which we are actively pursuing. The terms of this business plan project has been widened following the Deputy's successful amendment to proposition 101 this year, which called for an investigation into the appropriate course of action where people had difficulty paying for primary care. Any measures to address G.P. costs can only be introduced once this work has been completed.

3.9.1 Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier:

I thank the Minister for his kind words. When does the Minister expect the work to be completed?

Senator F. du H. Le Gresley:

The work is part of the wider sustainable model of primary care work that has been carried out by a project board, which includes representatives from my department and representatives across a whole range of primary care providers. They are working on various workstreams and my department will be leading on 2, one of which is patient access and the other one is on incentives. The intention is that all of this work will culminate in a public consultation on a White Paper which is planned for June of next year.