

2019.07.16

**10 Deputy G.P. Southern of the Minister for Social Security regarding the reduction of income inequality: (OQ.195/2019)**

Will the Minister inform Members what measures, if any, she has under consideration to reduce income inequality, through changes to the structure of Social Security contribution levels and earnings limits; what timetable she has for implementing such measures; and if she has no plans in this area, why not?

**Deputy J.A. Martin (The Minister for Social Security):**

I refer the Deputy to my response to the written question on the same subject today. The Council of Ministers has committed to reducing income inequality and improving the standard of living in the Common Strategic Policy. This includes a commitment to achieve a fair balance between wages, taxes, benefits, rents and living costs. This work will be undertaken in parallel with the first part of the Social Security review, which will consider contribution rates and earning limits as well as the outcomes of the personal tax review and the planned review of the planned review of the interaction between tax and benefits. This work is planned to be undertaken in 2020 and 2021. More information will be in the Government Plan, issued on 23rd July.

**Deputy G.P. Southern:**

I, like many, look forward to seeing the Government Plan in its final form, whatever that may be.