

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2006

Question

Would the Minister provide the data set collected for RPI for cost of living comparisons for a low income pensioner household in Jersey compared with the U.K.?

Answer

Answer

The States of Jersey Statistics Unit collects data on a quarterly basis for the compilation of the Jersey Retail Prices Index (the RPI). In order to ensure the robustness and impartiality of this index, following international best practice the Statistics Unit does not release the price data collected. However, the Unit does publish a comparison of price indices between Jersey and the U.K. on an annual basis.

Of more relevance to the question, the Statistics Unit conducted the Jersey Household Expenditure Survey over the twelve-month period to October 2005. Following the outstanding response and participation of the Jersey public to this survey, the Unit is currently analysing the wealth of information collected.

This survey will provide detailed information about the spending patterns and the impact of price changes for all categories of household in Jersey, including pensioners. Comparisons with the U.K. will be possible for both the level of expenditure and the percentage of household income spent, for example, on food and housing. This information will be extremely useful in the development of evidence-based social policy, including policies designed to meet the needs of pensioners in the Island.