

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2010**

Question

In light of the Report on Equality recently issued by the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission on the continued inequality in the gender pay gap which reveals that women earn on average some 16% less than men (rising to 27% for over 40's) does the Chief Minister have any comparable data on the gender pay gap in Jersey and if not, why not?

Given the States commitment to the creation of a more equal society as stated in the Strategic Plan, what measures, if any, is the Council of Ministers considering to address this issue?

Answer

UK data relating to gender pay differences is derived from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings and the Labour Force Survey. The preferred method of measuring the earnings of women relative to men is to use hourly earnings, excluding overtime, for full-time employees. The Statistics Unit does not collate comparable data on gender pay in Jersey to enable a robust analysis on gender pay differences.

The Council of Ministers is committed to pursuing a more equal society. The Social Security department is working through Phase 2 of the employment legislation programme which will include gender pay issues.