

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2011**

Question

Further to the answer given to a question on 23rd March 2010, would the Minister provide updated figures regarding the overall cost of Income Support since Social Security implemented the system?

Answer

The cost of Income Support (IS) since introduction is as follows:

2008 £73,056,000 (From 28 January) - Full year equivalent £78,875,000

2009 £85,961,000

2010 £91,707,000

These costs include weekly benefit, residential care, transition (protected payments), special payments, winter fuel allowance and administration.

Growth in Income Support costs overall have been driven by the global recession leading to higher unemployment. The ageing demographic has further added to costs, as have increases associated with the introduction of GST and the subsequent rise in benefit funding instead of exempting food from GST.

The figures shown for 2008 and 2009 are in accordance with the annex to the published States Financial Report & Accounts for 2008 and 2009. The cost of IS for 2010 is currently un-audited.