

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING  
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

**ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 4th DECEMBER 2007**

**Question**

Will the Minister inform members what proportion of States social renting tenants currently have agreed to have their rents paid directly from their income source (employer, Social Security or welfare departments) and what proportion does he anticipate will do so under the Income Support Scheme?

**Answer**

The Housing Department presently operates the rent abatement scheme which provides rental assistance for 71% of its own tenants. Rent abatement is paid internally from source and credited against each individual rent account. This 71% of tenants then have their net rent to pay (after abatement has been paid) and 7% of tenants have elected to pay their net rent by way of wage deduction or direct from the Social Security or Parish Welfare Departments. Therefore, at least 71% of tenants pay either their entire rent or part of it direct from one of the sources mentioned.

Under the Income Support scheme it is the total rent rather than the net rent (after abatement) which will be charged and we anticipate that due to the transitional arrangements put in place for Income Support the numbers of States Tenants receiving a rental subsidy will not change. It is likely therefore that 29% of tenants (those presently paying maximum rent) will continue to pay by their normal method, and of the 71% remaining they will continue to pay at least a proportion of their rent from source albeit that the source will have changed from the Housing Department to the Social Security Department.