

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY D.W. MEZBOURIAN OF ST. LAWRENCE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 27th MARCH 2007

Question

In the absence of a statutory requirement to provide evidence of identity in order to be issued with a Social Security card, has the Minister given consideration to introducing a policy whereby such proof of identity is required and if so, when will this be introduced, what document will be considered acceptable as proof of identity and for what reason?

Answer

The Department has for some time requested *proof of identity* on registration for social security purposes and the issue of a social security card.

Acceptable documents for proof of identity are a passport, national identity cards or a driving licence and the Department has found that most people registering will have one of these, especially new entrants to the Island. As proof of identity, these are most acceptable because of the photographic evidence involved and the processes that have to be undertaken to acquire these documents.

In the absence of a passport or driving licence, then other photographic identification would be accepted, for example those issued by the Parishes for proof of age. In the absence of any photographic proof, then other documentation can be considered on an individual basis, by exception. However, further documentary proof may be required before benefits can be paid.