

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY SENATOR S.Y. MÉZEC
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 25th JANUARY 2021
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2021**

Question

Will the Minister provide a list stating how much each Income Support component was worth in 2014, followed by how much they were actually uprated in each year since, and how much they would have been uprated by if they had been updated to match inflation?

Answer

The Income Support scheme is based on a combination of components and disregards, ensuring that each household claim takes full account of the size and nature of the household and its income and other assets.

There have been many changes to the income support scheme since 2014. The disregard applied to earned income has increased from 20% to 26% over this period. For each £100 of wages received in a week, an income support claimant now retains £26, compared to a retention of £20 in 2014. The income disregard now applies to earned income, pension income and maintenance income received by household members.

A list of all component rates at the start of each year is provided below.

The RPI for December 2013 was 156.4. The RPI for December 2020 was 181.4. Components would have been uprated by 16% if they had been updated to match inflation.

The average income support weekly claim amount over the same time has increased by 18% from £218 per week to £257 per week.

| Category | Component | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|----------------------------|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Basic Rates | Adult | 92.12 | 92.12 | 92.12 | 92.12 | 94.85 | 97.72 | 99.61 | 99.61 |
| Basic Rates | Single Parent (Adult + single parent supplement) | 132.51 | 132.51 | 122.43 | 112.35 | 105.00 | 138.11 | 140.00 | 140.00 |
| Basic Rates | First Child | 63.98 | 63.98 | 63.98 | 63.98 | 65.87 | 72.94 | 77.98 | 77.98 |
| Basic Rates | Subsequent Child | | | | | | 67.90 | 69.23 | 69.23 |
| Basic Rates | Household | 51.31 | 51.31 | 51.31 | 51.31 | 52.85 | 54.46 | 55.51 | 55.51 |
| Carer Rate | Carer | 46.97 | 46.97 | 46.97 | 46.97 | 48.37 | 49.84 | 50.82 | 50.82 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Hostel</i> | 80.64 | 80.64 | 95.13 | 100.10 | 103.04 | 106.19 | 108.22 | 108.22 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Lodgings</i> | 115.71 | 125.30 | 125.30 | 131.88 | 135.73 | 139.86 | 142.52 | 142.52 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented Bedsit</i> | 115.71 | 125.30 | 125.30 | 131.88 | 135.73 | 139.86 | 142.52 | 142.52 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented 1 Bed Flat</i> | 165.27 | 181.30 | 181.30 | 194.46 | 200.13 | 206.15 | 210.07 | 210.07 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented 2 Bed Flat</i> | 207.90 | 235.48 | 235.48 | 248.99 | 256.27 | 263.97 | 269.01 | 269.01 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented 3 Bed Flat</i> | 236.18 | 242.20 | 242.20 | 267.26 | 275.03 | 283.29 | 288.68 | 288.68 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented 1 Bed House</i> | 187.74 | 208.88 | 208.88 | 222.88 | 229.39 | 236.32 | 240.87 | 240.87 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented 2 Bed House</i> | 244.58 | 273.56 | 273.56 | 283.01 | 291.27 | 300.02 | 305.76 | 305.76 |
| <i>Housing Rental Caps</i> | <i>Rented 3 Bed House</i> | 272.79 | 324.24 | 324.24 | 330.54 | 340.13 | 350.35 | 357.07 | 357.07 |

| Category | Component | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Housing Rental Caps | Rented 4 Bed House | 295.19 | 341.25 | 341.25 | 360.29 | 370.79 | 381.92 | 389.20 | 389.20 |
| Housing Rental Caps | Rented 5 Bed House | 321.16 | 387.87 | 387.87 | 398.86 | 410.48 | 422.80 | 430.85 | 430.85 |
| Social Housing | All types | Uncapped from April 2014 | | | | | | | |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied Bedsit | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.37 | 6.58 | 6.79 | 6.93 | 6.93 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 1 Bed Flat | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.37 | 6.58 | 6.79 | 6.93 | 6.93 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 2 Bed Flat | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.37 | 6.58 | 6.79 | 6.93 | 6.93 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 3 Bed Flat | 8.54 | 8.54 | 8.54 | 9.03 | 9.31 | 9.59 | 9.80 | 9.80 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 4 Bed Flat | 12.11 | 12.11 | 12.11 | 12.74 | 13.16 | 13.58 | 13.86 | 13.86 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 1 Bed House | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.02 | 6.37 | 6.58 | 6.79 | 6.93 | 6.93 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 2 Bed House | 8.54 | 8.54 | 8.54 | 9.03 | 9.31 | 9.59 | 9.80 | 9.80 |
| Housing Owner Occupied Rates | Owner Occupied 3 Bed House | 12.11 | 12.11 | 12.11 | 12.74 | 13.16 | 13.58 | 13.86 | 13.86 |
| Impairment Rates | Personal Care Level 1 | 22.96 | 22.96 | 22.96 | 22.96 | 23.66 | 24.43 | 24.92 | 24.92 |
| Impairment Rates | Personal Care Level 2 | 101.15 | 101.15 | 101.15 | 101.15 | 104.09 | 107.24 | 109.34 | 109.34 |
| Impairment Rates | Personal Care Level 3 | 145.25 | 145.25 | 145.25 | 145.25 | 149.52 | 154.07 | 157.01 | 157.01 |
| Impairment Rates | Mobility Level 1 | 22.96 | 22.96 | 22.96 | 22.96 | 23.66 | 24.43 | 24.92 | 24.92 |
| Impairment Rates | Mobility Level 2 | 45.92 | 45.92 | 45.92 | 45.92 | 47.32 | 48.79 | 49.77 | 49.77 |
| Impairment Rates | Clinical Costs Level 1 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.29 | 3.43 | 3.50 | 3.50 |
| Impairment Rates | Clinical Costs Level 2 | 6.30 | 6.30 | 6.30 | 6.30 | 6.58 | 6.86 | 7.00 | 7.00 |
| Childcare Hourly rate | Child Day Care Age 0 - 2 | 6.27 | 6.27 | 6.48 | 6.59 | 6.79 | 7.00 | 7.14 | 7.14 |
| Childcare Hourly rate | Child Day Care Age 3 - 4 | 4.90 | 4.90 | 5.06 | 5.15 | 5.30 | 5.46 | 5.57 | 5.57 |
| Childcare Hourly rate | Child Day Care Age 5 - 11 | 4.85 | 4.85 | 5.06 | 5.15 | 5.30 | 5.46 | 5.57 | 5.57 |

Note that the private sector housing rental caps are maximum values paid