

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY DEPUTY M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2011**

**Question**

Will the Minister state the total amount of the Housing component of Income Support paid out by Social Security in 2009 and 2010?

**Answer**

As members will be aware, Income Support is a unified benefit and the value of each claim depends on the balance between the needs and the income of an individual household. It is not possible to allocate a definitive total value to each component as the amount paid depends on the income of the household receiving it.

To estimate the split between different components, a formula needs to be applied to the value of the total benefit. This can be done in a number of different ways. Any formula needs to be applied to payments made on a specific date.

It is possible to give an estimate of the cost by considering the daily rate at the end of each year, and using a simple pro-rating method. At 31 December 2009 the allocation of Income Support to accommodation components would give an annual equivalent value of £22.7 million. At 31 December 2010 the allocation of Income Support to accommodation components would give an annual equivalent value of £24.1 million.

It should be noted that it is not possible to compare these figures with the previous costs of rent subsidies as they are based on a wholly different benefit system.