

I am absolutely shocked and yet again disappointed in our government to hear the news that the free nursery places will now be means tested.

£75,000 joint income in Jersey is not a great deal unfortunately and we will come in about £10k over this. We do not live extravagantly by any means. We have a large mortgage as many people do in Jersey and yet we live in a modest 3 bedroom on an estate just out of town. I drive a 16 year old beaten up fiesta and we shop at the coop on double dividend days to save money.

We have both ensured we are educated and we are hard working. I went to uni and after a few years back in jersey I carried the expense of re training as a primary school teacher. My husband is on metering at the JEC.

When we had our son 2 years ago after having to self fund IVF as Jersey has no provision for this route of infertility either (but that's another moan!) I had to return to work after 4 months as we could not afford any more unpaid leave. This goes against all of my priorities as a mother and a teacher when I know that these first few years in a child's life are absolutely key. We had no choice!

I feel it is the middle earners that work hard and get a mortgage that are being penalised once again. It seems that if you don't bother to get a job or buy a property you can spend quality time with your children and get all the help you need at every turn. Quite frankly, it's disgusting and does not promote the values that should be important.

I was hoping to work slightly reduced hours when my son is eligible for the 20 free hours as this would have helped us out in a time when it is much needed.

My husband and I are seriously thinking of relocating for a better quality of life and to be able to spend more time with our son. I feel I sacrifice time with my child to care and educate others. This decision has been taken with no consultation at all and should not be allowed to be carried. The money that it is said will be being saved is a drop in the ocean in comparison to what is spent by the states on other matters. This ensures that every child starts school with the same opportunities and skills. Has any thought been given to the cost of this when children will be staring reception lacking certain basic skills.

I urge you to ensure this is questioned clearly and properly and does not disadvantage middle Jersey yet again!

Kind regards