WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TREASURY AND RESOURCES BY DEPUTY I. GARDINER OF ST. HELIER ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12th MAY 2020

Question

"Will the Minister advise -

- (a) how many applications there have been to the Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme;
- (b) how much has been claimed through these applications;
- (c) how much has been granted to date through the Scheme;
- (d) what checks and balances (or control mechanisms), if any, are in place to monitor the use of grants by the applicants; and
- (e) whether any measures are in place to enable data-sharing and analysis to be undertaken by the department administering this scheme in conjunction with the administration of Income Support and Social Security contributions?"

Answer

(a)-(c) Statistics Jersey will be producing an Economic Indicators report on a weekly basis to provide statistics on a range of important economic measures, including the Co-Funded Payroll Scheme. The latest report, published on Friday 8th, May confirms the following:

Total claims opened 880

Total amount processed £1,949,130 Total employees supported 6,680

For Phase 1 of the scheme approximately 10% of claims were rejected, typically because the claim was for a business in an ineligible sector. Phase 2 covers a much wider range of sectors.

(d) and (e) Payments under the scheme are paid in arrears and are based on actual payroll for staff employed by the business in the month prior. This will match declarations made by employers on their Social Security Schedules. For self-employed claims payments will be calculated using a self-declared average monthly gross income for 2019. This will be compared to the gross income confirmed on the 2019 tax return and subsequent tax assessment. In addition, details of businesses, claims made and conditions around those claims will be published to ensure transparent use of public funds.

Customer and Local Services (CLS) are administering the scheme on behalf of the Treasury Minister. CLS will be cross checking Co-Funded Payroll Scheme claims with Social Security contributions, CRESS and Income Support. CLS will also be sharing data with Treasury to cross check claims against 2019 Tax returns and assessments.