

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2010**

Question

In the light of the increase in waiting list applications for social housing caused by homelessness and financial hardship, announced by the Minister for Housing on 28th September 2010, will the Minister state –

- (a) how many requests have been received by his Department from householders for assistance with mortgage payments and how many of these have been granted for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date?
- (b) the terms under which assistance has been granted, and the total sums involved?
- (c) what measures, if any, he has under consideration and what funding he estimates may be required to deal with any increase in demand for assistance from the potential 400 public sector employees who may find themselves unemployed as a result of the £65million cuts programme over the period 2011 to 2013, and if none, why?

Answer

Three families have been granted assistance with mortgage payments since the inception of the Income Support scheme on 28th January 2008.

Assistance has been granted for discretionary payments under Article 8 (2) of the Income Support (Jersey) Law 2007. Because there are so few cases it would not be appropriate to provide any additional information.

Recent experience suggests that there has been little need to assist mortgage holders. A scheme specifically in respect of mortgage holders was drawn up in spring 2009 but was not implemented as it did not receive funding. I gave the commitment in the last sitting of the States Assembly that I would review the need for the scheme and I, together with the Housing Minister, will now do this.