

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2010**

Question

“Given that in response to question 5133 about the Education Allowance the Minister FOR Education, Sport and Culture advised that the form and extent of support available to students to encourage them to stay in education was unchanged, will he advise whether this allowance is still directed to 16-19 year olds in education and, if not, how and to whom it is now directed?

What structural differences currently exist in Income Support for 16-19 year olds in work and in education?

What action, if any, and in what timescale, will the Minister take to create incentives to 16-19 year olds to stay in education, and if none, why not?”

Answer

Under the previous benefits system a combination of Family Allowance and Education Allowance was available to parents, in respect of a child of 16-18 years old in post compulsory education. Payment was made direct to the parent, on a sliding scale, based on parental income.

Under the current Income Support (IS) the adult component of IS is available to parents in respect of a child of 16-19 years old in post compulsory education. Payment is made direct to the parent, on a sliding scale, based on parental income

A 16 to 19 year old who is working is an IS household in their own right and calculation of any IS benefit entitlement is based on their individual income.

The States encourage 16-19 year olds to stay in education by providing full time courses free of charge at Highlands College. Due to the recession additional capacity was provided in September 2009.