

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2009**

Question

Will the Minister inform members what sum of money, if any, he will be withdrawing from the benefits of households currently in receipt of £22.5 million worth of protected payments on 1st October 2009 when the transitional period for the introduction of the Income Support system comes to an end.?

Will he further state how the overall sum will be divided between households in the 5 groups mentioned in his previous oral response (on 10th March 2009), namely

- (a) those with moderate to severe disability (0%)
- (b) those with a pensioner or DTA recipient (25%)
- (c) those where income exceeds IS entitlement by a factor of 3 or more (100%)
- (d) those with the biggest percentage reduction in income (20%)
- (e) all other households (33%)

and how many households each group contains?

Has the Minister given any consideration to postponing this action, given the impact of the recession on the economy and, if so, what success, if any, has he had in negotiations with the Minister for Treasury and Resources and his other colleagues to maintain protected payments?

Answer

I can confirm that the protected payments available under the Income Support system will not come to an end in October 2009. The **first reduction** in protected payments is due to be implemented in October 2009.

The analysis requested by the Deputy cannot be completed by 30th March and will be provided at a future States sitting.

I have given consideration to postponing the first reduction in protected payments. A proposal to that effect is included in the package of economic stimulus measures that is currently being reviewed by the Fiscal Policy Panel.