

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY S.S.P.A. POWER OF ST. BRELADE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2014**

Question

Does the Chief Minister share my view that the employment, part-time or otherwise, of the so called “silver skillset”, that is those people born here or living in Jersey who are of retirement age but who may wish to carry on some type of employment even in a part-time capacity, would help in some employment sectors to control net inward migration and, if so, is he working with the Minister for Social Security to promote the employment of these skilled local residents?

Answer

Our older population has much to offer and we need to make the transition from full time employment to part-time self-employment or retirement as flexible as possible. This will help older Islanders to stay active and maintain their standard of living.

This issue is highlighted by the Skills Board, one of whose aims is to ensure that older residents have the current skills and opportunities necessary to continue to be productive members of the Island’s workforce.

Social Security, through Back to Work, has been concentrating on younger and long term unemployed islanders during a period of high unemployment. However, as our society ages we will need to focus on developing programmes for older people who are seeking work.

I support these initiatives and will certainly work with the next Social Security Minister if I am re-elected as Chief Minister.