

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY SENATOR A. BRECKON
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2011**

Question

Can the Minister explain why it has taken nearly 4 years to produce the 'Government Actuary's Report on the Financial Condition of the Health Insurance Fund as at 31st December 2007' (R138/2011)?

Answer

Actuarial reviews are, by their nature, documents that provide information over a timescale of decades, rather than concentrating on the immediate short to medium term.

The analysis included within the review is sophisticated and time-consuming and previous reviews have been published between two years and five years after the review date in question.

The period covered by the recently published review runs from 2003 to the end of 2007. Data in respect of years 2003 and 2004 was collected on the IT system used by Social Security at that time. In January 2005 a completely new IT system was introduced in the Social Security department, storing information on both contributions received and benefits paid. The data for years 2005, 2006 and 2007 was collated using the current IT system.

The analysis of information from the two different data sets has led to some additional complexity in the production of this report.