

2016.04.26

**3.13 Deputy J.A. Martin of the Minister for Social Security regarding payments made to foster carers:**

How does Social Security treat payments made to foster carers when considering earned income and are those arrangements different if the foster child is in a kinship foster care placement?

**Deputy S.J. Pinel (The Minister for Social Security):**

All of our payments made to foster carers in Jersey, which includes kinship carers, are not categorised as earned income and social security contributions are not due to them. This is because they are payments in respect of the child's daily living costs made by the Health and Social Services Department. For low income households the income support benefits ignore any boarding out payments made for foster children. They are not treated as an income. This is because the children have their daily living costs met by Health and Social Services rather than through Income Support. Income Support does allocate an accommodation component that recognises the household will require a dwelling of an appropriate size to include the foster child. Jersey makes no distinction between kinship foster carers - now referred to as connected person carers - and other mainstream foster carers and so these rules remain the same even where the foster placement is with the child's relatives.