

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY  
BY DEPUTY J.A. MARTIN OF ST. HELIER  
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 17th JUNE 2014**

**Question**

Following the decision in February 2008 to provide free prescriptions to Islanders, would the Minister advise -

- (a) how many prescriptions were issued the 5 years before that date by year;
- (b) how many prescriptions have been issued since they became free by year up to the last full year's figures available?

**Answer**

The table below shows the number of prescribed items that were dispensed by year, from 2003 to 2013

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Items prescribed</b>
2003	1,111,262
2004	1,164,037
2005	1,219,363
2006	1,251,616
2007	1,324,335
2008	1,489,319
2009	1,590,227
2010	1,651,355
2011	1,707,644
2012	1,784,798
2013	1,846,713

In addition to the decision to provide free prescriptions from February 2008, changes were also made in late 2007 to expand the list of drugs available through the Health Insurance Fund, to include drugs previously only available from the hospital pharmacy. This increased the number of drugs prescribed as drugs which were previously provided by specialists at the hospital were able to be prescribed by GPs for repeat prescription.