

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2008

Question

Would the Minister advise members of the average cost to his Department and/or the Health Insurance Fund for each prescription dispensed by a pharmacy (excluding the cost of the medicines)?

Answer

The fees paid for dispensing a prescription are set out in the Health Insurance (Pharmaceutical benefit (General Provisions) Order. From 1 October 2007, a standard dispensing fee of £2.85 is paid for every item dispensed. Various other sundry fees are paid, depending on whether the item is, for example, prepared by the pharmacist or is a controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs legislation and details entered in a register. These sundry fees equate to an average £0.05 per item. Therefore the average cost to the Health Insurance Fund for the dispensing of a prescription item is £2.90.