

2025.04.01

3.11 Deputy H.L. Jeune of St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity of the Minister for Social Security regarding the Community Cost Bonus and the Cold Weather Bonus (OQ.83/2025):

Given the continued rise in the cost of living, will the Minister advise whether consideration has been given to increasing the Community Costs Bonus and the Cold Weather Bonus to keep pace with prices, and if no such consideration has been undertaken, will she advise why not?

Deputy L.V. Feltham (The Minister for Social Security):

I did consider the current value of the Community Costs Bonus for 2025 because that is not a formula-driven amount and I have agreed to maintain the higher level of payment, given the current cost-of-living pressures. The Community Costs Bonus was doubled in 2022, so I have agreed to retain that higher level rather than reverting to the lower level. With regard to the Cold Weather Bonus, that within the legislation includes an automatic uprating every year, so that does happen automatically to keep pace with increased prices.

3.11.1 Deputy H.L. Jeune:

Has the Government conducted any recent assessments on whether these bonuses are effectively alleviating financial hardship, and if not, why not?

Deputy L.V. Feltham:

I, of course, need to consider any uprates in the round of all of the benefits that we provide, and it is a constant challenge that I do give to my officers to provide me with necessary information. This is one of the reasons why I am so keen to get the work done that we have funded in this year's Budget on minimum income standards, so that we can get some more detailed data around cost-of-living pressures for households at the moment.