

STATES OF DELIBERATION

October, 2015

Billet d'État No. XVIII

Article 8

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy M H Dorey

Seconded by: Deputy M J Fallaize

Social Security Department

Benefit and Contribution Rates for 2016

To insert a new proposition 30 as follows:

30. To agree that, after consultation with other relevant committees of the States, the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security shall report to the States by no later than October, 2017 setting out their opinion on whether the universal payment of family allowances should be altered, reduced or ceased and the costs thereof redirected to allow the States to provide additional financial support for some or all of the following children's services: medical and paramedical, including but not limited to primary care, dental, optical and physiotherapy provided either by States-employed clinicians or contracted private practitioners; and breakfast clubs, after school homework clubs, school meals and holiday clubs at States' schools.

RULE 15(2)(a) INFORMATION

Carrying out the investigation proposed in this amendment will not increase the expenditure of the States.

STATES OF DELIBERATION

28th October, 2015

Billet d'État No. XVIII

Article 8

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy M H Dorey

Seconded by: Deputy C J Green

Social Security Department

Benefit and Contribution Rates for 2016

1. In Proposition 1, to delete all of the text after “established,” and substitute “set at one third of the real increase in median earnings for 2016 and at one half of the real increase in median earnings from 2017 onwards.”.
2. To insert a proposition between Propositions 2 and 3 as follows:
“2A. That the Social Security Department be directed to include in that Department’s 2016 recommendations for the annual uprating of statutory old-age pensions the required changes to contribution rates and a reduction in the in the grant from General Revenue so that the monetary value of the grant is kept at approximately the 2016 level.”.
3. In Propositions 4 and 5 immediately after “That” to insert “, subject to Proposition 2A”.
4. In Proposition 6 immediately after “being approved” to insert “, and subject to Proposition 2A”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE AND RULE 15(2) INFORMATION

The effect of this amendment is that, from 2017, the guideline for the percentage increase in pensions will revert back to the halfway point between prices and median earnings, which had become the norm in Guernsey.

The financial implications for the States of carrying it into effect will be known when the Social Security Department 2016 recommendations for changes to contribution rates are published. If the recommendation, in 2016, is to increase the employers’ contribution rate by 0.5% the increased cost to the States, as an employer, is estimated to be £850,000 per annum.

STATES OF DELIBERATION

28th October, 2015

Billet d'État No. XVIII

Article 8

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy A H Adam

Seconded by: Deputy M P J Hadley

Social Security Department

Benefit and Contribution Rates for 2016

To insert after Proposition 16:

“16A. That from 1st June 2016, a prescription charge of £1 per item shall apply to all prescription items which would otherwise be supplied free of charge.

16B. That any person who has paid, in aggregate, in excess of £10 in any month in £1 per item prescription charges shall be entitled to be reimbursed from the Guernsey Health Service Fund for the amount by which £10 is exceeded, under administrative arrangements to be determined by the Social Security Department.”

EXPLANATORY NOTE AND RULE 15(2) INFORMATION

Paragraph 139 of the policy letter refers to the opinion of the Treasury and Resources Department and the Social Security Department, through the Personal Tax and Benefits Review, that a nominal fee of £1 per prescription item should be introduced for all those currently exempt from prescription charges. Paragraph 142 further notes that the Social Security Department is not yet in a position to present any firm proposals in this respect.

Applying a nominal charge of £1 per item for those items currently supplied free would return approximately £960,000 per year to the Guernsey Health Service Fund. Also, introducing a charge would reduce medicines wastage in the form of some unneeded repeat prescriptions.

For patients receiving multiple prescription items each month, the amendment proposes that no-one in the categories of persons who would be required to pay the £1 charge should be required to pay more than £10 per month.

In respect of Rule 15(2) of the Rules of Procedure, approval of this amendment is not anticipated to have any financial implications to the States.

STATES OF DELIBERATION

28th October, 2015

**Billet d'État No. XVIII
Article 8**

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy M J Fallaize
Seconded by: Deputy L B Queripel

**Social Security Department –
Benefit and Contribution Rates for 2016**

To add a new Proposition 32 as follows:

32. To agree that the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security shall investigate the merits of including within the ambit of the Guernsey Health Service Fund the costs of healthcare and medical treatment incurred by Guernsey residents while travelling to the United Kingdom which would previously have been within the ambit of the States' reciprocal health agreement with Her Majesty's Government, or alternatively of the States entering into partnership with one or more private insurance providers to ensure that such insurance cover can be made available to Guernsey residents at reasonable cost; provided that such investigation shall be undertaken on the presumption that any such insurance scheme would most probably require any claim to be subject to both maximum and minimum conditions in relation to cost coverage; and further to agree that the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security shall report to the States thereon by no later than October, 2017; and further to note that, for the purposes of Rule 15(2)(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation, carrying into effect the proposals in this amendment, i.e. the carrying out of such an investigation, will not increase the expenditure of the States.