

STATES OF DELIBERATION

29th October, 2014

Billet d'État No. XXI Article 5

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy Lester Queripel
Seconded by: Deputy C J Green

Social Security Department

Benefit and Contribution Rates for 2015

To replace Proposition 23 as follows:

“23. That a supplementary fuel allowance of £30.63 pence per week be paid to supplementary beneficiaries who are householders, from the 31 October 2014 until the 30 April 2015.”.

Explanatory note and information incorporated pursuant to rule 15(2):

This amendment would increase the supplementary fuel allowance by 63p per week. The Social Security department tell us in paragraph 162 on page 2436 of the Billet, that they are not seeking to increase the Fuel Allowance because the cost of fuel, light and power did not change in the year to June 2014. The department, of course, weren't to know that the price of gas here in the island, would increase in cost by two and half percent on the 12th of September 2014, and the price of coal has also recently increased by three per cent.

For the purposes of rule 15(2):

- i. The Department estimate that the amendment would increase revenue expenditure by approximately £22,000 per annum;
- ii. Such increase could be funded from General Revenue;
- iii. This would reduce the amount in the Budget Reserve but would not have any effect on the States Fiscal and Economic Policy Plan.

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Billet d'État No. XXI Article 5

Proposed by: Deputy Arrun Wilkie
Seconded by: Deputy Paul Le Pelley

Social Security Department

Benefit and Contribution Rates for 2015

To replace Proposition 29 as follows:

"29. That following conclusion of its review of the needs of beneficiaries of allowances under the Severe Disability Benefit and Carer's Allowance (Guernsey) Law, 2014 for whom accommodation or care services are provided at public expense, as described in paragraphs 222 to 224 of the Report, the Social Security Department shall report its findings to the States of Deliberation, by no later than 31 October 2015, together with any recommendations it may have for disqualifying such beneficiaries from entitlement or reducing allowances.".

Explanatory note and information incorporated pursuant to rule 15(2):

This amendment would require the Social Security Department to complete the review (proposed in paragraph 222) of payments of Severe Disability Benefit and Carer's Allowance for people in accommodation and care services and to bring that review before the States of Deliberation for debate, before implementing any change to legislation.

Severe Disability Benefit is a contribution towards all of the extra costs that a severely disabled person faces, not just the cost of care. The removal of all or part of a benefit worth £98.98 per week will have a significant impact on a disabled islander's life. Therefore the circumstances in which it should be removed should be the subject of States debate, not rest with the Social Security Department by regulation.

There is no impact in relation to rule 15 (2).