

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**  
**of the**  
**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY**

**NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFIT RATES FOR 2026**

The States are asked to decide:

Whether, after consideration of the Policy Letter entitled 'Non-contributory Benefit Rates for 2026', dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025, they are of the opinion:

1. To set the income support requirement rates at the rates set out in Tables 1 and 2 of the Policy Letter, from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
2. To set the income support limits of weekly income for people residing in residential homes, nursing homes, EMI (dementia care) accommodation, and the Guernsey Cheshire Home at the rates set out in Table 3 of the Policy Letter, from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
3. To set the personal allowances payable to persons in Guernsey and Alderney residential or nursing homes who are in receipt of income support and to persons in United Kingdom hospitals or care homes who are in receipt of income support at the amounts set out in Table 4 of the Policy Letter, from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
4. To set the maximum rent allowances, for income support purposes, at the amounts set out in Table 5 of the Policy Letter, from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
5. To set the supplementary fuel allowance at £42.42 per week, from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
6. To set the rate of family allowance at £18.40 per child, per week, from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
7. To set the rates and annual income limit for severe disability benefit and carer's allowance at the rates and limit set out in Table 7 of the Policy Letter, from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
8. To set the payment tariffs under the Mesothelioma Compensation Scheme at the rates set out in Appendix 2 of the Policy Letter, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.
9. To amend the legislation set out in paragraph 9.5 to make all benefit-related offences triable in either the Magistrate's Court or the Royal Court.

10. To set the maximum penalty for all benefit-related offences under the legislation set out in paragraph 9.5 at seven years' imprisonment.
11. To remove the specified limits on the penalties that may be imposed in the Magistrate's Court in respect of benefit-related offences under the legislation set out in paragraph 9.5.
12. To repeal the Employment of Immigrants (Control) (Guernsey) Law, 1974.
13. To direct the preparation of such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to the above decisions.

The above Propositions have been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications in accordance with Rule 4(1)(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees.

**THE STATES OF DELIBERATION**  
**of the**  
**ISLAND OF GUERNSEY**

**COMMITTEE *FOR* EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY**

NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFIT RATES FOR 2026

The Presiding Officer  
States of Guernsey  
Royal Court House  
St Peter Port

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Sir

**1. Executive summary**

- 1.1. The Committee *for* Employment & Social Security ('the Committee') has undertaken its annual review of the non-contributory benefits for which it is responsible. Non-contributory benefits are those funded entirely through General Revenue, which comes from tax income and not from Social Security contributions. These benefits include income support, family allowance, severe disability benefit, carer's allowance and the mesothelioma compensation scheme.
- 1.2. The Committee recommends that the majority of non-contributory benefit rates, limits, and allowances that will apply from early January 2026, be increased by 3.7%, this being the annual rate of 'core' inflation (RPIX) for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This is in line with the guideline uprating policy for non-contributory benefits.
- 1.3. In accordance with the guideline uprating policy for winter fuel allowance, the Committee is proposing that the rate be increased by 4.3%, taking it to £42.42 per week for the period from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026. This is in line with the annual percentage change in the cost of fuel and light over the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- 1.4. The Committee is also proposing that the income support limits of weekly income for people in long-term care, as described in paragraphs 2.8 and 2.9 of the Policy Letter, be increased to align with the cost of a 'standard rate bed' plus the personal allowance payable to persons in Guernsey and Alderney residential or nursing homes. This represents an above inflation increase and

is necessary as a consequence of decisions taken by the States in February 2025 to increase the standard rates for beds in residential and nursing homes to the mid-point of an analysis conducted in 2022 using the LaingBuisson research toolkit<sup>1</sup>, and to approve a guideline uprating policy for benefits funded from the Long-term Care Insurance Fund of Guernsey RPIX plus 1%.

- 1.5. In addition, the Committee is proposing that all benefit-related offences be triable in either the Magistrate's Court or the Royal Court. It is further recommending that the penalty provisions do not stipulate a lower maximum penalty on summary conviction (meaning that the Magistrate's Court has the full range of its general sentencing powers if it accepts jurisdiction), and to set the maximum penalty for all types of benefit-related offences at seven years' imprisonment in line with the position in the UK and Jersey.
- 1.6. The Committee is further recommending that the Employment of Immigrants (Control) (Guernsey) Law, 1974<sup>2</sup>, be repealed because it was never commenced and has been superseded by subsequent legislation.

## **2. Income support**

### Requirement rates

- 2.1. Income support is an in-work benefit, supporting those whose wages or earning potential, for whatever reason, is insufficient to meet their own or their family's needs. Income support also provides financial support for pensioners and people with caring responsibilities or who have a health condition or impairment that significantly affects their work capacity.
- 2.2. The income support 'requirements rates' are essentially a personal allowance intended to cover all basic daily living expenses (including, but not limited to, food, clothing and household goods and services), with the exception of housing costs which are covered by a separate rent allowance or, in the case of homeowners, an allowance to cover mortgage interest payments. The allowance payable for accommodation costs is capped at a maximum level depending on accommodation type and household composition.
- 2.3. A person's requirement rate is based on their household composition, including the age and number of dependent children within the household. The short- and long-term requirement rates are set annually by the States. The short-term rates are lower than the long-term rates because they exclude expenses which could reasonably be deferred for a short period of time, such as the replacement of clothing and household goods. Most claims are

---

<sup>1</sup> An industry standard toolkit for establishing the true costs of residential care constructed by LaingBuisson, an independent provider of healthcare market data ([LaingBuisson Care Cost Benchmark Toolkit](#)).

<sup>2</sup> [The Employment of Immigrants \(Control\) \(Guernsey\) Law, 1974](#).

assessed at short-term rates for the first six months. Claims are assessed at long-term rates after six months of continuous entitlement to income support, or from the outset for pensioners and those with severe disabilities.

- 2.4. In simple terms, income support is payable if the net amount of income<sup>3</sup> that the claimant and their spouse or co-habiting partner (if relevant) receive from earnings, other benefits (e.g. family allowance, States pension, etc.) and any other sources, is less than their total requirement rate. In these circumstances, income support makes up the shortfall. This is slightly complicated by the fact that some types of income are wholly or partially disregarded in the income support means-test. For example, if a person has earnings, the amount of earnings taken into account in the means-test are the person's net weekly earnings reduced by £40. This reduction of £40 is known as the 'earnings disregard'. An example calculation for a fictional family with one child is set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.5. Since the inception of the Income Support Scheme in July 2018<sup>4</sup>, the requirement rates have been derived from the overall weekly cost of set lists of essential goods and services. These lists are known as 'baskets of goods' and were compiled as part of an independent study carried out by Loughborough University's Centre for Research in Social Policy. In 2022, an exercise was undertaken to rebase the income support requirement rates using adjusted and modified 'baskets of goods'<sup>5</sup> produced as part of the 2021 Minimum Income Standard for Guernsey study.
- 2.6. For 2026, the Committee recommends that income support requirement rates be increased by 3.7%, in line with RPIX for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The Policy & Resources Committee is supportive of this proposal.
- 2.7. Tables 1 and 2 overleaf set out the proposed short-term and long-term income support requirement rates, and the proposed rent allowance for non-householders from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026, alongside current rates.

---

<sup>3</sup> After tax, social security, and contributions to an occupational pension.

<sup>4</sup> The Income Support Scheme replaced the Supplementary Benefit Scheme.

<sup>5</sup> Lists of essential goods and services. Minimum Income Standard research produces these lists using a guiding principle of what is needed to participate fully in society, and the Committee adjusted these lists to ensure they were appropriate for a social welfare system that is both socially just and financially sustainable.

**Table 1 – Current and proposed weekly short-term income support requirement rates**

	<b>2025 (current)</b>	<b>2026 (proposed)</b>
<b>Householders:</b>		
Cohabiting/married couple	£270.98	<b>£281.01</b>
Single householder	£162.45	<b>£168.46</b>
<b>Non-householder:</b>		
18 or over	£123.98	<b>£128.57</b>
<b>Non-householder:</b>		
Rent allowance <sup>6</sup>	£96.00	<b>£99.50<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Member of a household:</b>		
11 and over	£118.94	<b>£123.34</b>
5 – 10	£93.09	<b>£96.53</b>
Under 5	£76.33	<b>£79.15</b>

**Table 2 – Current and proposed weekly long-term income support requirement rates**

	<b>2025 (current)</b>	<b>2026 (proposed)</b>
<b>Householders:</b>		
Cohabiting/married couple	£385.59	<b>£399.86</b>
Single householder	£231.92	<b>£240.50</b>
<b>Non-householder:</b>		
18 or over	£176.58	<b>£183.11</b>
<b>Non-householder:</b>		
Rent allowance	£96.00	<b>£99.50<sup>8</sup></b>
<b>Member of a household:</b>		
11 and over	£135.46	<b>£140.47</b>
5 – 10	£103.06	<b>£106.87</b>
Under 5	£89.96	<b>£93.29</b>

<sup>6</sup> The rent allowance for a non-householder is an assumed rent contribution from a non-dependent living with a claimant which is deducted from the amount of the claimant's rent in working out the rent allowance payable to the claimant. If the non-dependent qualifies for income support themselves, this amount is added to their requirement rate when determining their level of need. A 'non-dependent' is someone who is over school leaving age, is no longer in full-time education and is living in a claimant's household (e.g. an adult son or daughter living with their parent(s), a parent living with their adult son or daughter, or an adult living with a friend).

<sup>7</sup> Rounded down to the nearest 50 pence.

<sup>8</sup> Rounded down to the nearest 50 pence.

### Limits of weekly income

- 2.8. The limits of weekly income effectively cap the amount of benefit payable to people residing in residential homes, nursing homes, EMI (dementia care) accommodation, and the Guernsey Cheshire Home, who do not satisfy the residency requirements for entitlement to long-term care benefit and may, therefore, need to rely on income support. They are set at amounts equal to the cost of a 'standard rate' bed (i.e. the relevant rate of long-term care benefit plus the co-payment<sup>9</sup>) plus the applicable personal allowance. This ensures that the fee payable to a private or third sector care home can be fully or partially covered through income support in the very few cases where this may be necessary. Additional fees, which are charged by care homes in respect of some beds, are not covered through income support.
- 2.9. It is important to note that income support would only be paid at this level in respect of a person who does not qualify for long-term care benefit but is eligible to receive income support (i.e. a person who is ordinarily resident in Guernsey, Alderney, Herm or Jethou with a valid residency certificate or permit who has capital assets (excluding their principal private residence) of less than £15,000) and has no other income at all. If such a person had some weekly income, the amount of income support payable would be less than the limit of weekly income. In such circumstances, income support would essentially top up the person's income to the relevant limit. This avoids the potential need for individuals who do not qualify for long-term care benefit and who have low capital and weekly income, to be accommodated, for financial reasons alone, in long-stay beds at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital campus.
- 2.10. The Committee is proposing that the limits of weekly income be increased, with effect from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026, to ensure that they continue to align with the cost of a standard rate bed plus the personal allowance payable to persons in Guernsey and Alderney residential or nursing homes. This represents an above inflation increase and is necessary as a consequence of decisions taken by the States in February 2025<sup>10</sup> to, among other things, increase the standard rates for beds in residential and nursing homes to the mid-point of an analysis conducted in 2022 using the LaingBuisson research toolkit<sup>11</sup>, and to approve a guideline uprating policy for benefits funded from the Long-term Care Insurance Fund of Guernsey RPIX plus 1%. The intention

---

<sup>9</sup> The co-payment relates to the accommodation and living costs of receiving bed-based long-term care and is payable by the person receiving care.

<sup>10</sup> The Need to Stabilise the Private Care Home Market and Incentivise Growth to Meet Demand ([Billet d'État V of 2025, Article III](#)).

<sup>11</sup> An industry standard toolkit for establishing the true costs of residential care constructed by LaingBuisson, an independent provider of healthcare market data ([LaingBuisson Care Cost Benchmark Toolkit](#)).

of these policies was the stabilise the private care home market and incentivise growth to meet increasing demand.

- 2.11. The proposed 2026 limits of weekly income, with effect from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026, are set out in Table 3 below alongside the 2025 limits.

**Table 3 – Current and proposed income support limits of weekly income**

	<b>2025 (current)</b>	<b>2026 (proposed)</b>
Residential homes	£1,028.00	<b>£1,286.00</b>
Residents of residential homes receiving EMI care	£1,223.00	<b>£1,451.00</b>
Residents of nursing homes and the Guernsey Cheshire Home	£1,540.00	<b>£1,824.00</b>

#### Personal allowances

- 2.12. The Committee pays a personal allowance to residents of residential and nursing homes who qualify for income support. The personal allowance is intended to cover modest purchases such as newspapers, confectionery, toiletries, and family presents. As of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 107 people were claiming this allowance.
- 2.13. The Committee *for* Health & Social Care (CfHSC) pays for Guernsey and Alderney residents to be placed in UK hospitals and specialised institutions if their mental or physical health needs cannot be met on-island. While the CfHSC meets the cost of accommodation and care, residents are expected to pay for items of a personal nature, and costs associated with supervised activities and outings, from their own resources. Residents who cannot afford these items/activities can apply to the Committee for a personal allowance. As of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, there were eight people in off-island placements claiming this allowance.
- 2.14. For 2026, the Committee is recommending that the rates of the personal allowances for residents in Guernsey and Alderney residential or nursing homes and UK institutions be increased by 3.7%, this being the rate of RPIX as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The proposed weekly personal allowances, to be effective from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026, are set out in Table 4 overleaf, shown alongside the 2025 allowances.

**Table 4 – Current and proposed weekly personal allowances**

<b>Personal allowance</b>	<b>2025 (current)</b>	<b>2026 (proposed)</b>
Residents of local residential and nursing homes	£48.86	<b>£50.67</b>
Guernsey people in UK hospitals and care homes <sup>12</sup>	£69.07	<b>£71.63</b>

Maximum rent allowances

- 2.15. The level of financial support available for income support claimants' rental payments is capped by the maximum rent allowances (MRAs). The MRAs are set at different levels for different sized households and fully cover all social housing rents. However, approximately 20% of income support claimants reside in private rental properties, the rents for which are typically much higher than those of social housing properties.
- 2.16. Is it important to understand that the MRAs are the maximum amount an income support claimant can have factored into the means test for rental costs; if a person's rent is lower than the relevant MRA, they would have an amount equal to their rent factored into the means test, not the full MRA amount.
- 2.17. The Committee recommends that the MRAs be increased by 3.7%, this being the rate of core inflation (RPIX) over the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- 2.18. The proposed MRAs, to be effective from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026, are set out in Table 5 overleaf, alongside 2025 rates.

---

<sup>12</sup> The personal allowance for Guernsey people in UK hospitals and care homes is higher than the rate which applies to residents of local residential and nursing homes because the people living temporarily off-island tend to be much younger and have more opportunities for using a personal allowance in the course of their supervised activities and outings.

**Table 5 – Current and proposed maximum rent allowances (weekly)**

<b>Tenancy group</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2025 (current)</b>	<b>2026 (proposed)</b>
Group 1	Single with no children	£300.92	£312.05
Group 2	Couple with no children	£300.92	£312.05
Group 3	Single or couple with 1 child	£349.54	£362.47
Group 4	Single or couple with 2 children	£445.01	£461.48
Group 5	Single or couple with 3+ children	£543.98	£564.11
Group 6	Living in shared accommodation	£232.96	£241.58

Winter fuel allowance for 2025/2026

- 2.19. A winter fuel allowance is paid from General Revenue to householders in receipt of income support for 26 weeks from the last week in October until the last week in April of the year following.
- 2.20. A reduced winter fuel allowance may be payable to a householder if they do not qualify for a weekly cash benefit because their weekly income exceeds their requirement rate by less than the level of the winter fuel allowance.
- 2.21. From 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the fuel allowance was £40.67 per week. This was an increase of 12.1% on the previous winter's allowance, this being the percentage change in the cost of fuel and light over the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024<sup>13</sup>.
- 2.22. For the period from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026, the Committee is recommending a 4.3% increase in the rate of the fuel allowance, taking it to £42.42 per week. This is in line with the annual percentage change in the cost of fuel and light for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025<sup>14</sup>.

Income support claim data

- 2.23. As at 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025, there were 3,204 active income support claims, as set out in Table 6 overleaf. These claims include 2,058 dependants, of which 1,626 are children, giving a total income support population of 5,262 people.
- 2.24. Income support claimants are split into a number of classifications for purposes of claims management and financial analysis.

<sup>13</sup> [Guernsey Quarterly Inflation Bulletin - June 2024.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Guernsey Quarterly Inflation Bulletin – June 2025.](#)

**Table 6 – Income support claims and expenditure**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Claims at 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024</b>	<b>Claims at 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>	<b>2024 Actual (£m)</b>	<b>2025 Forecast (£m)</b>	<b>2026 Budget (£m)</b>
Pensioner	914	897	8.6	9.1	10.2
Incapacitated	797	794	13.1	13.7	14.3
Jobseeker	242	299	6.5	5.9	6.4
Single parent	330	285	8.6	8.5	8.7
Disabled	214	217	3.5	3.7	3.8
Work requirement met	647	665	9.4	11.0	11.5
Other <sup>15</sup>	37	47	0.7	0.8	0.9
<b>Total (excl. dependants)</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>3,204</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Special Grants <sup>16</sup>			4.6	5.0	5.3
<b>Total</b>			<b>55.0</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>61.1</b>

- 2.25. It should be remembered that income support is a benefit designed to ensure a minimum acceptable standard of living, and that many of its recipients are in full- or part-time work. However, these claimants do not earn enough to meet their household's basic needs, which is why they are eligible for a top-up from income support.

### **3. Family allowance**

- 3.1. Family allowance is a weekly tax-free benefit payable to people living in Guernsey and Alderney who are raising children, provided their gross annual household income is below £125,000 and they meet all other eligibility criteria.
- 3.2. The Committee is recommending that the weekly rate of family allowance is increased by 3.7% from £17.70 to £18.40<sup>17</sup> per child, with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The Committee is not recommending an increase in the household income limit for 2026.
- 3.3. On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the States of Deliberation agreed that relevant legislative amendments be made such that family allowance is payable until the last Sunday in July during the academic year in which the child turns 18, providing that the child is receiving full-time education and the claimant meets all other

<sup>15</sup> Includes carers, pregnant women, prisoner's spouses, partners in hospital and a small number of claimants whose classification is unknown.

<sup>16</sup> Includes special grants in respect of medical expenses, disability, funeral expenses and other miscellaneous expenses.

<sup>17</sup> Rounded up to the nearest ten pence.

eligibility criteria<sup>18</sup>. It is anticipated that this change will come into effect sometime during 2026.

#### 4. Severe disability benefit and carer's allowance

- 4.1. The Committee recommends that the rates of severe disability benefit and carer's allowance, as well as the annual income limit for both severe disability benefit and carer's allowance, be increased by 3.7% from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026, as set out in Table 7 below.

**Table 7 – Current and proposed annual income limit and weekly rates of severe disability benefit and carer's allowance**

	<b>2025 (current)</b>	<b>2026 (proposed)</b>
Severe disability benefit - weekly rate	£135.59	<b>£140.63</b>
Carer's allowance - weekly rate	£112.82	<b>£117.00</b>
Annual income limit for both allowances <sup>19</sup>	£126,500.00	<b>£131,200.00</b>

#### 5. Mesothelioma Compensation Scheme

- 5.1. The Mesothelioma Compensation Scheme provides a single payment to people living in Guernsey or Alderney who have been exposed to asbestos and developed diffuse mesothelioma. Other asbestos-related conditions are not covered by the Scheme.
- 5.2. At the time of writing, the Committee had received two applications in 2025. One payment was made to a successful applicant. The other application was disallowed as the applicant did not meet the eligibility criteria.
- 5.3. The Committee recommends that the payment tariffs available under the Scheme be increased, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, by 3.7%, in line with RPIX over the year ending in June 2025. The current tariffs and the proposed new tariffs for 2026 are set out in Appendix 2 of the Policy Letter.

#### 6. Uprating policy for non-contributory benefits

- 6.1 In preparing its proposals for 2026 benefit rates, the Committee has given some consideration to the use of retail price indices as the measure by which its uprating policies are calculated. It notes that household cost indices were added to the suite of price inflation indices published for Guernsey from October 2022. These indices provide greater understanding of how different types of households in Guernsey experience rates of price inflation. As some

<sup>18</sup> Change to Eligibility Criteria to Receive Family Allowance and Widowed Parents Allowance ([Billet d'État VIII of 2025, Article XIII](#)).

<sup>19</sup> Rounded up to the nearest hundred pounds.

of these household types reflect, to some extent, groups of beneficiaries – for example, low-income households, households containing one or more children, and households containing one or more retired person – the Committee intends to consider, as part of a wider policy prioritisation process, whether to undertake a review to determine the appropriateness of an uprating policy which is more sensitive than RPIX to the impact of price inflation on low-income households.

## 7. Non-contributory services funded from General Revenue

7.1 This Policy Letter is about non-contributory benefit rates for 2026, so the financial position reported in this section relates only to Social Security services and benefits funded from General Revenue, and not the additional General Revenue funded services that come under the Committee’s mandate.

7.2 Table 8 below summarises the anticipated impact of the proposed benefit rates on expenditure for 2026. This table also includes the 2025 forecast at the time of writing, and the actual expenditure figures for 2022 to 2024.

**Table 8 – Summary of Social Security benefits expenditure funded from General Revenue**

	<b>2022 Actual £m</b>	<b>2023 Actual £m</b>	<b>2024 Actual £m</b>	<b>2025 Forecast £m</b>	<b>2026 Budget £m</b>
Income support	46.3	51.1	55.0	57.7	61.1
Family allowance	6.3	6.6	7.1	7.2	7.8
Severe disability benefit	5.1	5.8	6.9	7.4	8.1
Carer’s allowance	2.6	3.1	3.7	4.0	4.3
<b>Sub-total formula led expenditure</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>81.3</b>
School uniform allowance & educational maintenance grant	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Administration	1.4	1.6	2	2.3	1.7
Others <sup>20</sup>	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
<b>Sub-total non-formula led expenditure</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>83.5</b>

<sup>20</sup> Others include back to work schemes, charitable grants, and miscellaneous expenditure.

## **8. Employment of immigrants – obsolete law**

- 8.1. The Employment of Immigrants (Control) (Guernsey) Law, 1974<sup>21</sup> has been identified as obsolete. This Law was never commenced and has been superseded by other controls such as the Population Management (Guernsey) Law, 2016<sup>22</sup> and changes to the Immigration Work Permit Policy. The Committee is therefore recommending that this Law is repealed.

## **9. Penalties for benefit-related fraud offences**

- 9.1. The maximum penalties for benefit-related offences involving fraud, such as making false statements to obtain benefit, are low compared to penalties that apply in relation to similar offences in neighbouring jurisdictions.
- 9.2. The Committee is recommending an increase to the maximum sentences for such offences. Some benefit-related fraud offences are currently summary only offences, meaning that they cannot be committed to the Royal Court. It is recommended that all such offences be made triable either way, meaning that all such offences could be heard in the Royal Court when the severity of the offence (and therefore the likely sentence) justifies this.
- 9.3. It is further recommended that the penalty provisions are amended to remove the specified limits on penalties that can be imposed in the Magistrate's Court, meaning that court has the full range of its general sentencing powers. Those general sentencing powers are to impose a fine not exceeding twice level five on the uniform scale<sup>23</sup> and/or two years' imprisonment for one offence, or three years' imprisonment for multiple offences. This would mean that only the most serious cases with a likely penalty exceeding this general maximum would need to be committed to the Royal Court.
- 9.4. The Committee also recommends setting the maximum penalty for offences relating to benefit-related frauds under the enactments listed in the paragraph below at seven years' imprisonment, in line with both the UK<sup>24</sup> and Jersey<sup>25</sup> equivalent provisions.

---

<sup>21</sup> [The Employment of Immigrants \(Control\) \(Guernsey\) Law, 1974.](#)

<sup>22</sup> [The Population Management \(Guernsey\) Law, 2016.](#)

<sup>23</sup> Section 1(2) of [the Uniform Scale of Fines \(Bailiwick of Guernsey\) Law, 1989.](#)

<sup>24</sup> Section 111A(3) of [the Social Security Administration Act 1992.](#)

<sup>25</sup> Section 16 of [the Income Support \(Jersey\) Law 2007.](#)

9.5. If this recommendation is approved by the States, the following provisions would require amendment:

- Section 104 of the Social Insurance (Guernsey) Law, 1978<sup>26</sup>;
- Section 24 of the Income Support (Guernsey) Law, 1971<sup>27</sup>;
- Section 9 of the Family Allowances (Guernsey) Law, 1950<sup>28</sup>;
- Section 19 of the Severe Disability Benefit and Carer's Allowance (Guernsey) Law, 1984<sup>29</sup>; and
- Section 28 of the Long-term Care Insurance (Guernsey) Law, 2022<sup>30</sup>;

together with any other provisions that need amendment as a consequence of the above provisions being amended.

9.6. As it is rare for benefit fraud to reach such values as would warrant such a high penalty, it is envisaged that the majority of offences would remain in the Magistrate's Court, which typically saves both prosecution resources and legal aid costs. The court would continue to impose a sentence that fits the crime, but it would now have the freedom to adequately punish the most serious cases.

## **10. Compliance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure**

- 10.1. Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the States of Deliberation and their Committees sets out the information which must be included in, or appended to, Propositions laid before the States.
- 10.2. In accordance with Rule 4(1)(b), it is confirmed that the Committee has consulted with the Policy & Resources Committee in respect of the proposals set out in this Policy Letter.
- 10.3. In accordance with Rule 4(1)(c), the Propositions have been submitted to His Majesty's Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- 10.4. In accordance with Rule 4(1)(d), an estimate of the financial implications to the States of carrying the Committee's proposals into effect is set out in Table 8 of this Policy Letter.

---

<sup>26</sup> [The Social Insurance \(Guernsey\) Law, 1978.](#)

<sup>27</sup> [The Income Support \(Guernsey\) Law, 1971.](#)

<sup>28</sup> [The Family Allowances \(Guernsey\) Law, 1950.](#)

<sup>29</sup> [The Severe Disability Benefit and Carer's Allowance \(Guernsey\) Law, 1984.](#)

<sup>30</sup> [The Long-term Care Insurance \(Guernsey\) Law, 2002.](#)

10.5. In this Policy Letter, the Committee has set out its proposals for non-contributory benefit rates for 2026. In accordance with Rule 4(2)(a), it is confirmed that the Propositions accord with the Committee's purpose:

"To foster a compassionate, cohesive and aspirational society in which responsibility is encouraged and individuals and families are supported through schemes of social protection relating to pensions, other contributory and non-contributory benefits, social housing, employment, re-employment and labour market legislation."

10.6. In accordance with Rule 4(2)(b), it is confirmed that the Propositions have the unanimous support of the Committee.

Yours faithfully

T L Bury  
President

J M Ozanne  
Vice-President

G M Collins  
D F Dorrity  
T M Rylatt

## **APPENDIX 1**

**Example in respect of paragraph 2.4 - Breakdown of weekly requirement rate of a household and income support top up payable based on the proposed requirement rates for 2026**

<b>Household requirement</b>	
Personal allowance (long-term) - cohabiting couple	£399.86
Child aged 5 – 10	£106.87
Weekly rent	£350.00
Allowances (Services, TRP etc.)	£20.50
Winter fuel allowance (31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025 – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026)	£42.42
<b><u>Total requirement:</u></b>	<b>£919.65</b>
Income: Wages	£608.53
Earnings disregard (£40 per person)	-£80.00
Benefits: Family allowance	£18.40
<b><u>Income Support payable:</u></b>	<b><u>£372.72</u></b>

This is a two-parent family living in rented accommodation. They have a dependent child aged six.

Both parents are of working age and are meeting their work requirements at minimum wage.

This household is on long-term rates.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Current and proposed payment tariffs for 2026 under the Mesothelioma Compensation Scheme**

<b>Age of eligible person at date of diagnosis or date of death</b>	<b>2025 (current)</b>		<b>2026 (proposed)</b>	
	<b>Eligible person</b>	<b>Eligible relative</b>	<b>Eligible person</b>	<b>Eligible relative</b>
<= 37	£115,752	£60,239	£120,035	£62,468
38	£113,501	£58,943	£117,701	£61,124
39	£111,257	£57,651	£115,374	£59,784
40	£109,009	£56,360	£113,042	£58,445
41	£106,759	£55,068	£110,709	£57,106
42	£104,513	£53,775	£108,380	£55,765
43	£103,392	£52,538	£107,218	£54,482
44	£102,261	£51,292	£106,045	£53,190
45	£101,141	£50,064	£104,883	£51,916
46	£100,017	£48,827	£103,718	£50,634
47	£98,893	£47,595	£102,552	£49,356
48	£95,752	£46,076	£99,295	£47,781
49	£92,604	£44,556	£96,030	£46,205
50	£89,454	£43,041	£92,764	£44,634
51	£86,311	£41,528	£89,505	£43,065
52	£83,156	£40,013	£86,233	£41,493
53	£80,911	£38,771	£83,905	£40,206
54	£78,666	£37,537	£81,577	£38,926
55	£76,423	£36,302	£79,251	£37,645
56	£74,165	£35,058	£76,909	£36,355
57	£71,919	£33,826	£74,580	£35,115
58	£66,076	£30,403	£68,521	£31,528
59	£60,232	£26,971	£62,461	£27,969
60	£54,395	£23,547	£56,408	£24,418
61	£48,549	£20,117	£50,345	£20,861
62	£42,706	£16,687	£44,286	£17,304
63	£39,107	£15,706	£40,554	£16,287
64	£35,508	£14,735	£36,822	£15,280
65	£31,918	£13,738	£33,099	£14,293
66	£28,321	£12,756	£29,369	£13,228
67(+)	£24,727	£9,975	£25,642	£10,344
68	£23,993		£24,881	
69	£23,258		£24,119	

Age of eligible person at date of diagnosis or date of death	2025 (current)		2026 (proposed)	
	Eligible person	Eligible relative	Eligible person	Eligible relative
70	£22,534		£23,368	
71	£21,805		£22,612	
72	£21,076		£21,856	
73	£20,454		£21,305	
74	£19,821		£20,554	
75	£19,214		£19,925	
76	£18,605		£19,293	
77+	£17,985		£18,650	