

General Information	
Ministerial Decision Type	Miscellaneous
Report Title	Ministerial Decision Report – Minister for Social Security – COLTS Payment Increase
Minister	Social Security
Signatory	Minister
Lead Department	Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance (SP3)
Lead Directorate	Public Policy (SP3)
Ministerial Decision Summary: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Date decision made if different to date 'Ministerial Decision Summary' signed.	20/07/2022
Report and Supplemental Report Details	
Report Author	Senior Policy Officer
Date of Report	20/07/2022
Supplementary Report Title <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Supplemental Report Title.
Supplementary Report Author <i>(If applicable)</i>	Insert Official Title Only.
Date of Supplementary Report <i>(If applicable)</i>	Select Date of Supplemental Report.
Ministerial Decision Report: Public or <a href="#">Absolutely/Qualified</a> Exempt	Public Select if more than one Absolutely/Qualified Exemption.
Relevant Case/Application/URN <i>(Only complete if making a decision related to an appeal/case/application)</i>	Insert Relevant Case/Application.
Relevant Proposition Number <i>(Only complete if presenting Comments or if lodging an Amendment)</i>	Insert P. number.
Relevant Scrutiny Report <i>(Only complete if presenting a ministerial response)</i>	Insert S.R. number.
Associated Law(s) and/or Subordinate Legislation	

Action required if recommendation agreed	Senior Policy Officer to confirm decision with Group Director of Customer Services and request payment values be increased in time for August payment run. Senior Policy Office to update COLTS policy guidelines to reflect the payment value change.
Resource Implications	There are additional financial and/or manpower implications. Further detail is included in the detail section of the report.

### **Introduction**

The previous Minister for Social Security established the Cost of Living Temporary Scheme (COLTS) via Ministerial Decision (MD-SOSEC-2022-308) on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The scheme paid £20 per person, per household to people claiming any of the following benefits – Income Support, Community Costs Bonus, Cold Weather Bonus and Pension Plus.

In light of the rising cost of living being seen by Islanders, and as part cost of living support “mini-budget” proposed by the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers, it has been decided to increase the value of COLTS payments for a period of 5 months i.e. until the scheme ends in December 2022.

All other aspects of the scheme will remain the same and the published policy guidelines will be updated to reflect the change in payment value.

### **Detail (Decision and Reason for decision)**

Following agreement from the Council of Ministers, the Minister for Social Security has decided to increase the COLTS payment value (per person, per household) from £20 to £40, effective from the August payment run.

The initial estimated spend for COLTS was £2 million. This increase in payment value will see the estimated cost rise for 5 of the 9 months the scheme will be live. The estimated additional spend is £1.1 million, this additional funding will be drawn from existing CLS income support and tax funded departmental budgets.