

Christmas Bonus - law drafting instructions

Background

The States Assembly approved part (a) of [P.59/2023](#) at its latest meeting. This provided for:

THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –

to request the Minister for Social Security to –

(a) increase the amount of the Christmas Bonus in 2023 from £84.87 to £114.19 to reflect inflation; and

(b) increase the amount of the Christmas Bonus in line with rises in the Jersey retail prices index as at March of each subsequent year

Note that part (b) was withdrawn and was not debated.

Changes are needed to legislation in two areas to adjust the value of the Christmas bonus to be paid in 2023 and subsequent years.

Legislation

1. Specific participants included in an income support household receive a Christmas bonus under the [Income Support \(Special Payments\) \(Christmas Bonus\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2016](#). These regulations also provide for payments to be made to some individuals receiving long term care benefits.

The value of the payment is set out in Regulation 3(1). The current value of £84.87 is to be increased to £114.19.

The Regulations to increase the value of the payment should be implemented from 1 December 2023.

2. In addition, additional individuals can receive a Christmas bonus if they meet the eligibility criteria set out in the [Social Security \(Christmas Bonus\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 2016](#). Regulation 3 provides for the amount of the Christmas bonus to be specified by an Order made under article 3 of the [Social Security \(Bonus\) \(Jersey\) Law 2014](#). The [Social Security \(Christmas Bonus 2016\) \(Jersey\) Order 2016](#)¹ provides for the current value of £84.87.

The order should be amended to replace the current value of £84.87 with the new value of £114.19.

The Order should be implemented from 1 December 2023.

Timing

The Regulations under the Income Support Regulations will need to be lodged by 17/10 at the latest to allow a debate on 28/11. Christmas bonus payments will start to be made in early December. The Order under the Social Security Bonus Law should be prepared to a similar timetable, to be signed immediately after the Regulations have been approved.

¹ Note that this Order is not displaying on “current laws” on the JLIB website, but it is R&O -131-2016