Mini Budget- Under 5 Year- Parental Support Payment – updated February 2023

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1. Summary

The Minister for Social Security has decided to make a one-off support payment to parents who are living, working and looking after their children in Jersey, but who have been on the Island less than 5 years.

Payments will be specifically targeted at parents who hold "Registered" status under the Control of Housing and Work Law¹.

Adults with less than 5 years residence will benefit from the increase in tax allowances from January 2023. However, they are not eligible for the Income Support scheme. As part of the mini-budget, the States Assembly agreed to the provision of additional financial support to these Islanders in 2023.

Parents must hold registered status, be living and working in Jersey and have had a gross income in 2022 of no more than £36,000 for a single person or £48,000 for a couple. They cannot have lived in the Island long enough to satisfy the residency conditions for Income Support; which require the person to have been in Jersey for five years continuously before claiming, or ten years at any time in the past.

Parents with children (who must also be living in Jersey) can apply for a one-off payment which will be made based on the number of children they have.

2. Timing of payments

Applications for payments will open on the 3rd January 2023 and will remain open until 31st March 2023. Payments are expected to be made from January until April 2023.

3. Funding for payments

These payments are tax funded and will be administered by Customer and Local Services (CLS), with funding allocated by the Treasury and Resources Minister as part of the mini-budget.

4. Purpose of payments

The primary purpose of the payments is to provide a one-off cash amount to eligible parents to assist with rising costs. However, it will also provide an opportunity for these families to engage with CLS to ensure that they are aware of all the services that Government offers to Jersey residents.

¹ Control of Housing and Work (Jersey) Law 2012

5. Eligibility

These payments are aimed at parents who **don't qualify** for Income Support on residency grounds, they are only available to parents with children. To be eligible, parents must:

- Have been living in Jersey since at least 1st October 2022, with at least one parent having been working in Jersey during 2022.
- Be living and present in Jersey at the time of applying.
- Have lived in Jersey for less than 5 Years
- Have a Jersey bank account.
- Hold "Registered Status" under the Control of Housing and Work Law.
- Have at least one child living with them in Jersey.
- Have a gross income no more than £36,000 for a single person or £48,000 for a couple.

In addition:

A couple living together cannot make two separate applications.

6. Applying for payments and processing

a. Information required for application: summary

The application process is administered by CLS.

Parents can complete an online form or arrange an appointment with CLS to complete an application in person. Support will be available for non-English speakers.

Only one application can be made in respect of each child.

An application requires the following information:

- Personal details of parents full name, address, Social Security number(s) and the date of arrival in Jersey for each parent.
- Current (or most recent) employer name and address for each parent

- Email address this address will be used if there are any queries on the application.
- Telephone number for daytime contact. This number will be used if there are any queries on the application.
- Jersey Bank details bank name, sort code and account number. Any payment can only be made to this account.
- Personal details of children full names and date of birth of each child and their age on arrival in Jersey (if not born locally).
- Details of each child's school / nursery / day carer name, address.
- Total income of both parents for 2022.

The following declaration must also be agreed / signed:

Declaration

I confirm that (my partner and) I have lived in Jersey for less than 5 years and that I/my partner and I live with and have responsibility for the upbringing of at least one child under the age of 18. In addition, I confirm that my/our income did not exceed £36,000 (for a single person) or £48,000 (for a couple) during 2022.

I further authorise any relevant Government department to provide confirmation of this information to Customer and Local Services ("CLS").

I understand that I must and confirm that I will:

- a) Provide any such further information as CLS may request
- b) Confirm my circumstances and those of my partner (where applicable) to CLS upon request.
- c) I understand that if I do not provide this information no payment will be made.

I hereby consent to and understand that:

- a) CLS will check the information I have provided against existing Government records.
- b) CLS can contact my employer or previous employer to verify my employment history and the information I have provided in support of this application.
- c) CLS can contact my partner's employer or previous employer to verify my partner's employment history and the information I have provided in support of this application.
- d) CLS can contact my child's school or care provider to verify their enrolment.
- e) The Government will take action against me to recover any monies that I have received to which I am not entitled

f) If I have provided CLS with any false information in relation to my application for this payment, the Government can and will take action against me to recover any monies that I have received to which I am not entitled, including, but not limited to criminal prosecution

I declare that:

- a) All of the details provided in this application are true, accurate and complete
- b) I have read and understood the rules of this payment
- c) I have read and understood this declaration and commit to adhere to the commitments I have made in it
- d) If I receive any monies to which I am not entitled, I will repay them forthwith

I understand that if I supply information that I know to be false or withhold information for the purpose of obtaining a payment for myself or anyone else (for example, if I do not declare an income), I am committing a criminal offence for which I could be prosecuted, and which may result in a fine and/ or imprisonment.

b. Details of person applying and any household members

Applications can only be made by a parent (or parents) of a child (or children) and only one application can be submitted per family.

c. Jersey bank account

Payments will only be made to Jersey bank accounts.

d. Application processing

Parents applying will be asked to declare their combined income and this information will be checked against records held by Government. If the parents' income is £36,000 or under for a single person or £48,000 or under for a couple – then they will be deemed eligible for this payment.

7. Payment amounts

This is a one-off payment based on the number of children living with the parents who are applying.

Parents eligible for a payment will receive:

A payment of £250 for one child or £500 for two or more children.

8. Definition of parent

For the purposes of this payment, a parent is an adult that has parental responsibility for the care of a child.

9. Definition of child

For the purposes of this payment, a child is anyone living with the applicant parent(s) under the age of 18. If a child is born during the time that payment applications are open, parents will be able to apply.

10. Fraud, overpayment and paying back the money

Payments are made on the basis of information supplied by the applicant.

The applicant must sign a declaration confirming the information provided is complete and correct and that they will abide by the terms of the payment.

Information will be checked against information held by the Government. The applicant's employer or former employer may be asked to confirm details.

In the event that any information is incorrect or incomplete, the applicant will be required to repay any payments made that were not correctly due.

In the event that an applicant deliberately supplies false information, the matter will be passed to the police and the applicant may be subject to prosecution.

11. Legal position of payments

Payments are non-statutory. As such the terms can be amended or withdrawn without notice at the discretion of the Minister for Social Security.

As a non-statutory payment, the decision of the Minister for Social Security is final and there are no rights to appeal decisions.

12. Application Form

In order to be considered for a payment, an application must be submitted.

The Application Form (along with information about the payments) is available:

• Online: www.gov.je (direct link TBC)

- By email: Parentalsupportpayment@gov.je
- By phone: +44 (0) 1534 444444
- In person: CLS at La Motte Street is open 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday