



23 December 2024

Request

In a recent article in the Jersey Evening Post, the Connétable of St Peter, Richard Vibert stated,

What people don't realise is that although the welfare system has been moved on to central government, which was the right thing to do, the Constables are still at the forefront of helping with the gaps that the government doesn't cover. And there are gaps.

We've probably given out more in the past two or three years by way of hardship... We will fund parts of school uniforms sometimes. I recently funded carpets for a house in St Peter and a bicycle for a child, where the mother just couldn't afford to buy a bicycle for a child.

We paid for some electricity this week, and through that we found somebody who really was in hardship that nobody was aware of. Sadly, I think mental-health issues are also a serious problem. I'm trying to get them some help with that.

But this is real, you know. Poverty is a real issue."

Please could each Constable list what payments they have made to cover the "gaps" in the welfare system. Please list the amount and the total plus the total as a percentage of the total budget.

Response

Income Support is available from the Employment, Social Security and Housing Department, Government of Jersey, and is subject to meeting certain criteria including residence. Income Support also includes one-off payments (Special payments: help with emergency costs) to help pay for emergency costs of essential items or services.

Information from Parishes for the period May 2022 to date is set out below. Information may be aggregated and presented as a range (Article 25(2) exemption applies). Funds are from bequests, rather than part of the Parish estimates, so the percentage as part of the total budget is not applicable.

FOI exemption applied:

Article 25(2) - Personal Information - Personal data, applicant not subject but supply contravenes data protection principles

Information is absolutely exempt information if – (a) it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject as defined in the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018; and (b) its supply to a member of the public would contravene any of the data protection principles, as defined in that Law.

Article 23 - Information accessible to applicant by other means

Information is absolutely exempt information if it is reasonably available to the applicant, otherwise than under this Law, whether or not free of charge. A scheduled public authority that refuses an application for information on this ground must make reasonable efforts to inform the applicant where the applicant may obtain the information.

Justification for exemption

Parish accounts are available on the Parish website.

St Brelade - no payments

St Clement - from 1 January 2022 to date, the Trustees have granted the sum of £29,861 comprising of awards for: general/non-specific grants £12,250, food vouchers £2,450, heating vouchers £1,500, utility bills £1,198, dental/medical/optician bills £4,358, school trips/holiday club/sports activities/educational

equipment/kit £6,179, household items i.e. white goods £1,926. These payments have been made from the Don Balleine, Don Benest and Don Journeaux Trust accounts. These trusts were established following bequests made to the Parish to assist deserving Parishioners who meet the required criteria as specified by the relevant trust. Accounts up to 30 June 2021 are published on the Parish website at [Parish Accounts | Parish of St Clement](#).

Grouville – vouchers distributed to assist with purchase of food (over the Christmas period), total cost £2,500 in 2022 and £3,000 in 2024.

St Helier - most St Helier Parishioners who require financial help can be assisted by Customer and Local Services or are otherwise signposted to local charities who support and assist those in need with help for school uniforms, nursery fees, learning devices, school clubs as well as helping with mobility scooters, profile beds and other equipment including white goods. There are other charities who assist with food banks and items can be obtained on Facebook pages such as e-cycle.

The Parish of St Helier Community Services team have organised charity roadshows for all Parishes, where charities gave valuable information on funds available on application and what they specialise in, to ensure parishioners are signposted to the charity that best suits their needs.

St Helier has provided charitable grants/donations, to various charities, including the St Helier Community Trust, who may assist individuals if they can't obtain funding from other charities. Before making a grant, the Parish explores all other avenues first and in the past three years has not been required to help with any emergency costs.

St John – from May 2022 to date, payments totalling £2,400 from the Don Gruchy for household expenses.

St Lawrence – five payments totalling £1,259.31 have been made to cover household and other costs. Five donations totalling £1,200 have been made to two charities and two primary schools in the Parish from the Charitable account.

St Martin – six payments from the Clos des Pauvres totalling £680.70 have been made since 2022 to assist with household and other costs (the Will of Jeanne Gruchy bequesting a sum of money for the purpose of buying land in each of the twelve Parishes for the benefit of those native to Jersey who have fallen through the welfare net and not already receiving other Parish welfare).

St Mary – no payments.

St Ouen – the information is accessible by other means. The Parish accounts, available on the website at [Parish Accounts | Parish of St Ouen](#), in schedule 1 show payments made from the Don Gruchy.

St Peter – eight payments totalling £4,668.16 have been made since May 2022 to date for household expenses/items.

St Saviour – total of £135 has been paid since May 2022 for household/other costs.

Trinity - no payments.