



States Greffe

Senator Elaine Millar
Minister for Social Security
BY EMAIL

Thursday, 1st October 2026

Dear Minister,

Social Security Contributions for the Self-Employed individuals

The Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel has recently considered public submissions regarding the operation of Jersey's Social Security contribution system for self-employed individuals. The submissions raise several concerns regarding the fairness of the current contribution structure, the value received by contributors, and the potential impact on entrepreneurship and self-employment in Jersey.

In particular, the submissions argue that self-employed individuals are required to pay significantly higher Social Security contributions than employees on comparable incomes, whilst ultimately receiving broadly the same pension entitlement and access to benefits. They further suggest that the current arrangements may discourage entrepreneurship and create a disproportionate financial burden for sole traders and freelancers.

The Panel would therefore be grateful if you could provide further information on the following matters:

- What is the policy rationale for requiring self-employed individuals to pay both the employee and employer elements of Social Security contributions?
- Does the Minister consider the current contribution structure to strike an appropriate balance between fairness for employees, employers and the self-employed?
- Has the Department undertaken any recent assessment of the impact that Social Security contribution rates may have on entrepreneurship, self-employment and the attractiveness of Jersey as a place to establish a business?
- Has the Government considered any measures to reduce the contribution burden on self-employed individuals while maintaining the long-term sustainability of the Social Security Fund?

- The submissions raise concerns that individuals who move to Jersey later in life may be unable to accrue a full contribution record before reaching pension age and therefore receive only a proportion of the full State Pension. Does the Minister consider the current arrangements appropriate in these circumstances, and has any consideration been given to alternative approaches?
- Has the Department undertaken any comparative analysis of Jersey's contribution regime for self-employed individuals against other jurisdictions, and if so, what conclusions were reached?
- More generally, is the Minister satisfied that the current Social Security contribution framework adequately recognises the differing circumstances, risks and responsibilities associated with self-employment?

The Panel would be grateful for your response by Thursday 8th October.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Porée', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Deputy Beatriz Porée
Chair, Health and Social Security Scrutiny Panel