PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 5
Answered on 23rd June, 2026
First Meeting 2026-2027 Session – Second Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL

TO

THE HON. ISAAC D. RANKINE
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Minister provide a detailed update on the ongoing financial assistance reassessment process conducted over the past 12 months by the Department of Financial Assistance, specifically:

> **(a) the number of individuals or households whose financial assistance benefits have been reassessed;**
> **(b) the number of recipients who have experienced a reduction in their monthly disbursements following these reassessments; and**
> **(c) the aggregate dollar figure saved or deducted from public assistance distributions as a direct result of these benefit reductions?**

ANSWER:

Over the period 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026, the Department of Financial Assistance (DFA) completed 547 financial reassessments for individuals and households receiving financial assistance.
Of these reassessments:

- 71% (391 persons) received increased average monthly services compared to their previous assessment period
- 28% (155 persons) received reduced services
- 0.2% (1 person) experienced no change in their monthly services

The 155 persons who experienced a reduction in services did so because their household defecit decreased at the time of reassessment. Financial assistance is calculated strictly on the basis of a household's verified deficit, which can change over time as income and expenses change. Reductions can occur for the following reasons:

- Decreased household deficits — Households had smaller shortfalls between their expenses and their available income at reassessment, meaning they required less assistance to meet essential needs.
- Increased household income — Clients gained employment, increased work hours, received pension uplifts, began receiving Seafarers or Veterans Ex Gratia increases, or obtained additional income (e.g., rental or business income), reducing the level of support required.
- Reduced household expenses — Certain clients experienced lower expenses (e.g., loan payments ending, children leaving pre school), which reduced their deficit.
- Changes in household composition — When household members moved out, became independent, or no longer required support, the household's needs and deficit change.

Reductions occurred only where a household's verified financial need decreased, resulting in a lower assessed shortfall and therefore a lower level of services.

A monthly comparison is used because not all clients access services for the same number of months during each assessment period, and therefore an annual comparison would not provide an accurate or consistent measure of change across households. Using a monthly figure ensures that the comparison is accurate, consistent, and comparable across all 547 reassessed clients, regardless of how long they received services in either period. An annual comparison would be misleading, as it would incorrectly assume that all clients received the same services for the same duration, which is not the case.

In this context, the 155 persons who experienced reductions saw a combined monthly decrease of **$59,294.45.** These reductions were applied strictly based on each client's verified financial need at the time of reassessment and were necessary to bring their assessed household deficit within the allowable surplus threshold prescribed in the Regulations. By contrast, the 391 persons who experienced increases saw a combined monthly increase of **$182,904.86.** This demonstrates that through reassessment, the Government was able to redirect the $59,294.45 in reduced monthly services to help meet the increased needs of the 391 clients whose household deficits had grown.