

WATER CORPORATION — HARDSHIP UTILITY GRANT SCHEME

156. Mr D.J. KELLY to the Minister for Water:

I have a supplementary question. In the first 12 months of this government, fewer than 100 people had their water reduced to a trickle. Last year, as I said, there were 2 279 families. Will the minister now acknowledge that these increases are causing severe damage to families and rule out the six per cent water increases that have been foreshadowed in the budget?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

Water prices are set as part of the budget negotiations and I will not make any comment in that regard. However, I will say that if people are having trouble paying their water bill, a suite of options is available and no-one should get themselves to that point. If they contact the Water Corporation, it can assist them to pay their water bill.