



MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND SENIORS

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS**  
**Shadow Minister Robin Tucker, MP**  
*(written response)*

**May 15, 2026**

**Q1.** Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with a list of all grocery stores with which the Government currently partners for the purpose of administering the Financial Assistance Programme, and the dates on which each partnership was established?

**A1.**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>YEAR PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED</b>
1	Market Place/ Shopping Centre*	1993
2	Lindo's Family Foods	2018

\* All marketplace stores including Price Rite.

---



MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND SENIORS

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS**  
**Shadow Minister Robin Tucker, MP**  
*(written response)*

**May 15, 2026**

**Q2.** Will the Honourable Minister please provide for this Honourable House the total amount paid to each participating grocery store under the Financial Assistance Programme, broken down by year and by store for the past ten years.

**A2.**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR (APRIL TO MARCH)</b>	<b>MARKET PLACE</b>	<b>LINDO'S FAMILY FOODS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	2016/2017	4,269,319.44	-	4,269,319.44
2	2017/2018	4,037,038.77	73,064.27	4,110,103.04
3	2018/2019	4,223,523.66	521,401.74	4,744,925.40
4	2019/2020	4,584,614.44	538,245.35	5,122,859.79
5	2020/2021	5,574,347.70	630,077.87	6,204,425.57
6	2021/2022	5,505,577.31	600,866.89	6,106,444.20
7	2022/2023	5,457,051.85	626,268.41	6,083,320.26
8	2023/2024	5,367,581.52	726,090.04	6,093,671.56
9	2024/2025	5,476,913.42	806,479.50	6,283,392.92
10	2025/2026	5,711,630.00	843,956.73	6,555,586.73
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50,207,598.11</b>	<b>5,366,450.80</b>	<b>55,574,048.91</b>



# MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SENIORS

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS Shadow Minister Robin Tucker, MP *(written response)*

**May 15, 2026**

**Q3.** Will the Honourable Minister please outline for this Honourable House the process used to determine which grocery items qualify as essential for the purposes of the Financial Assistance Programme, including any consultation undertaken with relevant professionals, community organizations, or other stakeholders in developing this determination?

**A3.**

The Department routinely updates (increases) the schedule of food allowances provided to its clients based upon recommendations provided by the Ministry of Health (Nutritionist) on the cost of a basket of goods; in addition, the Department utilizes the Department of Statistics Consumer Price Index Reports to ensure that the basket of goods match the increases in the level of inflation.

The Department does not classify or designate grocery items as essential or non-essential. Financial Assistance recipients exercise personal discretion in purchasing grocery items they deem necessary for their wellbeing. Notwithstanding this, the Department of Financial Assistance internally identified items that should not be purchased, and grocery stores have been advised as such. These items may adversely affect clients' health and wellbeing, including but not limited to alcohol, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, in addition to other items such as furniture, small appliances.

---