

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY,
1st APRIL 2003 BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

Question 1

Paragraph 3.7.2 of the Housing Committee's Strategic Policy Report 2002-2006, (P.2/2002), regarding the vigorous pursuit of fraud investigation states that –

the Committee is satisfied that the cost of resources for fraud investigation is more than recovered by the savings made on the payment of subsidy.

Will the President inform members -

- (a) how many alleged or suspected cases of fraud were brought to the attention of the Department in 2002?
- (b) of these, what proportion were reported to the Department anonymously by members of the public?
- (c) what proportion of the total cases suspected were followed with investigation by a fraud officer?
- (d) how many cases resulted in recovery of funds and what was the total recovered?
- (e) in how many cases of fraud were eviction proceedings pursued?

Answer

- (a) Approximately 125 alleged or suspected cases of fraud were brought to the attention of the Department in 2002, of which 76 were actually investigated.
- (b) Approximately one out of four cases was reported anonymously.
- (c) Approximately three out of five of the total cases suspected were followed with investigation by a fraud officer.
- (d) 21 cases resulted in recovery of funds. During 2002, there was backdated recovery of nearly £18,000 and, by year end, ongoing weekly savings of £1,313 arising from adjusted subsidy payments.
- (e) Eviction proceedings were pursued in one case.

Question 2

Will the President outline for members what procedures or guidelines, if any, are in place to protect tenants should unfounded allegations arise against them?

Answer

If it cannot be shown without investigation that an allegation is unfounded then an investigation will usually be pursued. This policy to some extent protects tenants by not allowing unfounded allegations to remain unanswered. However there are no specific guidelines which protect tenants from unfounded allegations - in many cases, unless investigated, the Department cannot determine whether or not the allegations are without foundation.