

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY,
4th NOVEMBER 2003 BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

Question

On 18th October 2003, members were informed of the Committee's decision to lower the threshold for 1(1)(k) entrants via the front page of the Jersey Evening Post.

- (a) Would the President explain why he did not consider a statement to this Assembly as a more appropriate medium of communication of this change?
- (b) Would the President give members detailed annual figures to show the number of applicants rejected and accepted since 1(1)(k) scheme was first introduced?

Answer

- (a) Regulation 1(1)(k) is a Regulation which empowers the Housing Committee to grant housing consent to an applicant where that consent 'can be justified on social or economic grounds'. The tax payment threshold for 1(1)(k) entrants has changed from time to time since the Regulation was introduced in 1970 and can be varied according to particular circumstances – there are no financial limits set out in the Regulation. The variation of this tax threshold is not a matter which has been reported to the States in the past and I do not consider it a material change from the policy which has applied since 1970.
- (b) I can provide figures for k category consents granted to new applicants since 1998, as follows:-

1998 - 3
1999 - 4
2000 - 2
2001 - 1
2002 - 1
2003 to date - 2

During this period no applications formally considered by the Committee have been rejected. However, although the figures are not recorded, a number of enquiries were made of the Policy and Resources, Income Tax and Housing Departments during these years which did not satisfy the criteria for acceptance and were not pursued further by the applicants.

I am unable to provide figures for the number of new k category consents granted from 1970 to 1998 without diverting resources for a considerable period of time from more important work. The trend over the last thirty three years has certainly been for fewer applications to be made and subsequent consents granted.