

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BY DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2007

Question

1. Will the Minister inform members whether those non-locally qualified (NLQ) employees engaged by local firms on a secondment or short-term contract basis are included in the manpower figures used to measure and report on NLQ quotas under RUDL?
2. Will he further indicate for members what length of contract would qualify to be classified as short-term or secondment?
3. Will the Minister also inform members what data he has in number and percentage terms of such secondment/short-term contract employees, engaged in the sectors monitored by the manpower reports? Can he also produce comparative figures for five years ago?
4. Will the Minister further inform members how RUDL conditions are applied in the case of short-term contracts or sub-contract conditions in the construction industry?

Answer

1. All staff engaged by local employers are included in the manpower figures.
2. Contract licences are issued to construction businesses to engage staff in relation to specific, time limited contracts. These contracts are not defined as short term or otherwise, but, being limited to the specific contract in question, are limited by the very nature of the industry and development in the Island.
3. As reported in the Regulation of Undertakings Employment Licences Statistical Releases, in 2006 licences were issued to engage 479 staff on a contract basis, compared to 775 in 2005. These contracts will be of varying length, and as such, it is not possible to provide an accurate percentage analysis between contract and non contract staff at a point in time. However, to place this issue in context, it is worth noting that 5,060 people were employed in the construction industry as at 31st December, 2006, of whom, including staff engaged on a contract basis, 550, or 11% of the total, were non locally qualified.
4. When a local undertaking applies for a contract licence, it must provide evidence of having advertised locally, and the numbers of non locals it intends to employ on the contract. Once this information is received and analysed, a decision is made on whether to issue the licence.