

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

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 15th MAY 2007

Question

- (a) Will the Minister inform members what is meant by 'favourable variance in staff costs' contained in his written answer on 1st May 2007?
- (b) Will the minister explain why he has further reduced his maintenance budget by £190,000 when, by his own admission, much of the housing stock remains in need of repair?

Answer

- (a) 'Favourable variance in staff costs' are savings accrued as a result of staff vacancies. When staff leave the Department, the recruitment of a replacement can take some time. During this period salary payments cease, which results in a saving.
- (b) 80 per cent of the stock is not in need of repair. The reduction in expenditure of £190,000 relates to a decision made in 2005 for implementation in 2006, as part of required service cuts. It was a 'one-off' payment. Since that time the Housing Department has brought forward proposals in the Social Housing Property Plan to address a number of issues, including maintenance funding.