

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING
BY DEPUTY P.V.F. LE CLAIRE OF ST. HELIER**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2008

Question

1. What documentation does a qualified islander need to be given from the Housing Department to be able to prove that they have their housing qualifications?

Answer

The Population Office provides an individual with written confirmation of their housing qualifications in the form of a letter, once they have adequately proved an appropriate period of residence.

When that individual subsequently enters into a transaction to purchase or lease property, a consent or exemption, depending on the means by which that individual qualified, will be granted by the Population Office following joint application by the purchaser and vendor, or the lessee and leaser. These consents or exemptions, of course, will only be approved once the appropriate housing qualifications are evidenced to the appropriate files.

Question

2. How many people have qualified for housing purposes in the last 3 years in each of the different categories?

Answer

A variety of detailed provisions exist around obtaining housing qualifications, with the most common routes being an aggregated period of 10 years residence for persons born locally; 10 years residence for persons who arrived in the Island as minors (aggregated or continuous depending on the status of the parents); or 12 years continuous residence for someone born outside the Island. Over the last 3 years, the following numbers of people in each category have qualified under these routes –

	10 years residence, locally born	10 years, person who arrived as a minor	12/13/14 years, non locally born
2005 (14 years, non locally born)	422	94	411
2006 (13 years, non locally born)	540	105	606
2007 (12 years, non locally born)	483	105	792

For this purpose, the above commentary excludes those who purchase or lease a property having obtained housing qualifications other than through a period of residence, specifically this relates to those who can transact as essential employees (“j’s”) or as wealthy migrants (“k’s”) or through hardship provision (“g’s”). There are 1,700 “j’s” in the Island, and only a handful, less than 10 in each case, of “k’s” and “g’s” are granted each year.

The above analysis obviously does not account for people who leave the Island, or who die, and as such,

is **not** reflective of net changes in the numbers of qualified people in the Island.

Question

3. Will the Minister agree to update members on a 6 monthly basis as to the numbers in each category?

Answer

The States is updated on the numbers of people qualifying as and when it is proposed to change the qualification period. In recent years, this has meant statistics have been provided on an annual basis. It seems sufficient and reasonable to continue this practise of reporting on an annual basis, and this will be done, irrespective of whether or not it is proposed that the qualification period change.