

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE COMITÉ DES CONNÉTABLES BY THE DEPUTY OF GROUVILLE

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2009

Question

Given that on 2nd April, 2008, the Assembly agreed by 40 votes to 6 that a consistent criterion for admitting people to parish waiting lists for Sheltered Housing would be brought forward by the Housing Minister. Since that time, could the Chairman confirm:-

- (a) how many meetings have been held between the Connétables and Housing Minister to develop such a criteria?
- (b) at what stage of development it is?

Would the Chairman confirm whether the numbers of people on the Parish waiting lists were used to imply during the Re-zoning of the Countryside debate (P75/2008) that there was an “urgent, desperate need” for sheltered housing, even though that was not a requirement for admissibility and, if so, what definition of “desperate” and “needy” was applied?

Did some of the people on the Connétables waiting lists also appear on the Housing department’s central list for States Housing?

Answer

- (a) No meetings have been held to date between the Connétables and the Minister for Housing to develop criteria for admitting people to parish waiting lists for Sheltered Housing. However, the Comité des Connétables has invited the Minister to attend its meeting on 9th February 2009 to discuss this matter.
- (b) No meetings have been held and so development of the criteria has yet to be considered.

The proposition “Provision of land for lifelong dwellings (for people over 55) and first-time buyers - amendment to Island Plan (2002)” (P.75/2008) was prepared by the Minister for Planning and Environment. The Comité des Connétables met with the Minister and Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment in September 2007 to discuss the draft consultation report and pointed out that it was the Minister for Housing, and not the Connétables, who had specified the number of units required. The Deputy should seek a reply to her question of whether the Parish waiting lists were used from the Minister for Housing.

To date, the waiting lists maintained by Connétables have been for persons over the age of 65 who have an interest in being offered the opportunity to move into sheltered housing owned by the parish. The Connétables are each aware from their own waiting list for existing Parish sheltered housing that many people ask to have their names added early as they wish to be assured of such accommodation in the longer term. The allocation criteria in such cases is dictated by the specific needs of the individual at the time and not specifically by the length of time on the waiting list.

The Minister for Housing has not to date provided to the Connétables any details of those persons on the Housing department’s central waiting list and so it is not possible to say whether or not any of those persons also appear on the Connétables waiting lists.