

4.8 Senator A. Breckon of the Minister for Housing regarding the use of U.K. contractors on the refurbishment of Pomme d'Or Farm:

Can the Minister detail whether U.K. contractors are working on the refurbishment of Pomme d'Or Farm and, if so, how many and why are they being used?

Deputy A.K.F. Green of St. Helier (The Minister for Housing):

The refurbishment of Pomme d'Or Farm has been undertaken by Camerons, and Camerons are undertaking all the works with locally-based labour and sub-contractors with the exception of a small amount of asbestos removal work. This work is being undertaken by a specialist U.K. subcontractor of Jersey Demolition Contractors, who themselves were appointed by Camerons following a competitive tendering process. There are 3 employees on the site.

4.8.1 Senator A. Breckon:

Could the Minister confirm that there are local contractors who are available and qualified to do this work?

Deputy A.K.F. Green:

I am advised in this particular case, while there are local contractors capable of doing the work, none were available within the timescales that we had and there have been occasions when - not on this case - contracts have gone out to tender, I can show the Senator one case where the quote was nearly 200 per cent higher locally than U.K. But in this case it was because of non-availability.

4.8.2 Deputy G.P. Southern:

Can the Minister confirm that building contracts are, in the main, regarded as temporary contracts, less than 2 years, and are therefore not subject to the requirement to employ local workers only?

Deputy A.K.F. Green:

I am afraid the Deputy has me at a disadvantage there. I was not aware of that rule, but I will say that when we go out to tender we try and get as much of the work done locally by local contractors. The Pomme d'Or site, less than 2 per cent of nearly £5.2 million worth of work is being done by specialist workers based on the fact that the local specialists were not available in the timescale.

4.8.3 Senator A. Breckon:

Can the Minister confirm whether the department has any policy on whether outside contractors should be used or not?

Deputy A.K.F. Green:

The use of outside contractors would be as a last resort.