

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY R.G.LE HÉRISSEIER OF ST SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2014**

Question

Given the large number of public sector construction projects due to start, can the Chief Minister confirm that all labour needs will be met from within the current workforce and allocated licences? If not, how will additional labour be sourced?

Answer

As our economy recovers, some net migration will be needed in a range of sectors, including construction, servicing both public and private sector contracts. However the intention is to prioritise existing residents for the available work, and the Housing and Work Advisory Group will promote local employment when considering applications for licences.

Islanders are being supported by various government training initiatives, including the “back to work” and “trackers” programmes, in order to limit the need to import labour.

Back to Work, in partnership with the Jersey Construction Council, is already working to maximise opportunities for unemployed Islanders in Construction. By the end of this year, up to 200 locally qualified jobseekers will have had the opportunity to be trained as ‘Site Operatives’ on the Under Construction training course that is being run on the Waterfront and accredited by the Construction Council.

There are 58 students signed up to full time courses in Construction at Highlands and 192 studying part-time (23 at degree level, 73 on the Trackers apprentice programme and the remainder on either level 1, 2 or 3 construction courses).